Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-057
Tuesday
24 March 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-057 24 March 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Ministerial Committee on Libya Meets *[MENA]* 2
Arab League Chief on Outcome of Emergency Meeting *[JANA]* 2
'Abd-al-Majid on Libya, Region's Crises *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Mar]* 2
Libya's al-Turayki on Arab League Resolution *[Tripoli International]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Denies Conflict on Confederation *[London AL-HAYAH 19 Mar]* 4
PLO Central Council Meeting Delayed Until 6 Apr *[AL-DUSTUR 24 Mar]* 4
Commentary Criticizes Performance of UN's Ghali *[Algiers VOP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudiaf Acknowledges Need for Government Changes *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Ex-President Bendjedid Denies Stealing $10 Billion *[Algiers Radio]* 6
FIS Lawyer Says Banning Verdict 'Illegal' *[Algiers Radio]* 6
FFS Leader Condemns 'Repressive Policies' *[MENA]* 6
Hamas Leader Criticizes Higher State Council *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Army Pamphlet Urges Disobedience Against Regime *[AL-SHA'B 10 Mar]* 7
Government Benefits To Aid Low-Income Citizens *[APS]* 8
Boudiaf Meets With Libyan Official al-Humaydi *[JANA]* 8
Algiers Rejects Anti-Libyan UN Measures *[Tripoli International]* 8

Egypt

Foreign Minister Briefs Mubarak on Libya Crisis *[MENA]* 8
U.S. Call for Anti-Libya Position 'Rejected' *[JANA]* 9
Mubarak Efforts Praised by Libyan Congress *[MENA]* 9
Commentary on Arab League Meeting, Libya Crisis *[Cairo Radio]* 9
'News Analysis' Urges Peaceful Solution *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Editorial on U.S. 'Hurry' To Impose Sanctions *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Editorial Opposes Interception of Korean Ships *[AL-AHRAM 18 Mar]* 10
Foreign Minister Musa Discusses African Issues *[MENA]* 11
Former Chief of Staff on Reasons for Return *[MISR AL-FATAH 16 Mar]* 11
More 'Extremists' Arrested in Officer's Murder *[MENA]* 12

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects To Be Given to Arab League *[MENA]* 12
Foreign Liaison Secretary Comments *[Tripoli TV]* 13
Requests Files on Case *[MENA]* 13
Call To Leave Country 'Ignored' by Westerners *[JANA]* 13
Al-Qadhdhafi Cable Marks Arab League Anniversary *[Tripoli TV]* 14
Message Sent to Secretary General *[Tripoli TV]* 14
European Assets Reportedly Transferred to Egypt *[AL-ITTIHAD 22 Mar]* 14
Editor Denounces 'Unjust' Western Campaign *[JANA]* 14
Blockade Seen Preventing Religious Rites *[JANA]* 15
Egyptian, Syrian 'Pan-Arab Stance' Praised *[JANA]* 15

Mauritania

President Holds Talks With Libya's al-Humaydi *[JANA]* 15

Morocco

King Hassan Confers With Libya's al-Humaydi *[MAP]* 16

Sudan

Military Documents Reveal Excesses, Arms Deals
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 17 Mar] 16

Tunisia

Ben Yahya Meets With Envoys on Libya Crisis *[Tunis Radio]* 17
Foreign Minister Works for Solution *[Tunis Radio]* 18
President Addresses Nation on Independence Day *[Tunis Radio]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir Receives Libyan Official al-Qa'ud *[WAKH]* 19

Kuwait

Council Urges UN Pressure on Iraq Over Detainees *[KUNA]* 19

Oman

Sultan Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi *[Muscat Radio]* 19

Qatar

Amir Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy *[WAKH]* 19

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets With Libya's al-Durdah *[SPA]* 20

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi *[WAKH]* 20

Republic of Yemen

President Holds Talks With Libyan Envoy al-Qa'ud *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

IRAQ

Syria, Iran, Iraq Reportedly Trade on Borders *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 21
Saddam, Experts Discuss Primary Materials Output *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Saddam Signs Decrees Awarding Medals to Soldiers *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
UN Weapons Team Views Remains of Scud Missiles *[AFP]* 22
Paper Views UN 'Satisfaction' on Iraqi Message *[AL-THAWRAH 22 Mar]* 22
International Official Notes Cooperation on Missiles *[AL-THAWRAH 22 Mar]* 23
Ahmad Husayn Views Arab League Session Efforts *[INA]* 23
Regime Beheads 10 Officers for Military Failures *[AFP]* 23
Defense Minister Visits 1st, 5th Army Corps *[INA]* 23
Trade Minister Says Food Reaching North *[AL-'IRAQ 18 Mar]* 24
Kurdish Autonomous Region Official Visits Dahuk *[INA]* 24
Minister Notes Electricity, Industrial Priorities *[BABIL 15 Mar]* 24
Ba'th Military Wing Holds 'Democratic' Elections *[AL-QADISIYAH 16 Mar]* 25
Writer Addresses People on Threats Facing Nation *[BABIL 16 Mar]* 26
Talk Says al-Asad Weakens Arab Strength *[Baghdad VOP]* 26
Column Criticizes al-Asad Actions *[AL-THAWRAH 18 Mar]* 27
• Regime Pursues Dual Policy on Kurds, Shiites *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Mar]* 27

ISRAEL

Government To Demand Public Apology From U.S. *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Mar]* 29
Arens Meets Visiting U.S. Army Secretary 29
'Nothing To Hide' on Patriots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Calls Military Ties With U.S. 'Close' *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
On U.S. Ties, Operations in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Ministry Denies Report on Boycott of U.S. Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Moda'i: 'Not a Grain of Truth' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Arens Briefs Cabinet on Talks With Cheney *[DAVAR 23 Mar]* 31
Arens Displeased With Policy on Gaza Closure *[HA'ARETZ 23 Mar]* 31
Confederation Proposal Said To Include Iraq *['AL HAMISHMAR 24 Mar]* 31
Likud Voids Agreement With Moda'i Faction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Settlers Allowed Into Army Outpost at Tapu'ah *[Jerusalem TV]* 32

JORDAN

Abu-Jabir Returns From Arab League Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 33
King Husayn Congratulates Iranian President *[Amman TV]* 33
King, Visiting Japanese Discuss Peace Process *[Amman Radio]* 33
King Visits Armed Forces General Command *[Amman TV]* 33
Prime Minister Briefs Cabinet on King's Tour *[Amman Radio]* 33
U.S. Journalists Faulted in Saudi Dispute *[AL-RA'Y 20 Mar]* 34
Editorial Urges Israel To 'Abandon Terrorism' *[AL-RA'Y 20 Mar]* 35

LEBANON

Al-Murr: Government 'Unable' To Ensure Security *[RFL]* 36
Statement Views Syrian Redeployment *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Nabih Birri Opposes Early Syrian Withdrawal *[VOL]* 36
Security Personnel, Vendors Clash in Beirut *[VOL]* 36
Interior Minister Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Al-Murr on Economy, Damascus Talks, Shoot-Out *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Buwayz Skips Arab League Meeting on Libya *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Islamic Jihad Reiterates Claim of Embassy Blast *[VOL]* 37
Israeli Buildup Reported; Army on 'Alert' *[Voice of the People]* 37
Report of Buildup Refuted *[RFL]* 38
Lubrani Said To Tour Posts *[VOM]* 38
Army Fires on Israeli Planes *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Fadlallah Sees 'Plot To Deprive Islam' of Power *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Views Lubrani Comment on Resolution *[VOL]* 38
Warns of 'Zionist' Attack *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38

SYRIA

U.S., Israeli 'Sources' Cited on Scud Shipment *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 23 Mar]* 39
World Powers Urged To 'Prove Their Sincerity' *[Damascus Radio]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

India

'First' Official Talks With Israel Held 23 Mar *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Solanki Briefs House on U.S. Ties, Nuclear Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 40
'Shankul' Naval Submarine Launched 21 Mar *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Rao on Economic Reforms, Nuclear Conference *[Delhi TV]* 40
Rao Declines Comment on Nuclear Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Militants Gun Down 13 People in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Burma Urged To Halt 'Atrocities' on Refugees *[Delhi Radio]* 41
SRV Foreign Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 41

Iran

Minister Urges 'Massive' Election Turnout *[IRNA]* 41
Mediation in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Discussed 42
Russia Backs Tehran Role *[Tehran TV]* 42
'Ideal Candidate' for Mediation *[TEHRAN TIMES 10 Mar]* 42
Efforts of 'Western Powers' Discounted *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 Mar]* 43
Attempt at 'Sabotage' Seen *[ABRAR 5 Mar]* 43
UN Official Rejects Criticism on Refugees *[IRNA]* 44

Sri Lanka

Anti-LTTE Military Operations Continue 44
185 LTTE Fighters Killed *[Colombo International]* 44
Curfew on Trincomalee District *[LANKAPUVATH]* 44
Strikes on Tamil Bases Increase *[Colombo Radio]* 45
Finance Minister Wins No-Confidence Motion *[Colombo International]* 45
Agricultural Produce Exports Increasing *[Colombo International]* 45

Israel

The government plans to demand a public apology from Washington for alleging that it tranferred a Patriot missile to China, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported. Israel intends to present the demand when the U.S. team investigating Patriot batteries completes its work in the country.

Libya

The foreign minister has asked the United States, Britain, and France to turn over their files on the Pan Am and UTA cases to Libyan judicial authorities so that they can finalize their own investigation of the cases, MENA disclosed. External Liaison Secretary Ibrahim al-Bishari made the request through a message to the UN secretary general.

Lebanon

The Syrian Army's "redeployment" cannot be concluded by September because the Lebanese Army is incapable of ensuring security throughout the country, the defense minister has said. In a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Defense Minister al-Murr cited a lack of foreign assistance and a poorly equipped army. Separately, the defense minister said Israel is planning an operation in south Lebanon in retaliation for the attack on its embassy in Argentina, the radio reported. A buildup of Israeli military vehicles including Merkava tanks and APC's in the "security strip" was noted by the clandestine Voice of the People, which reported that Lebanese Army units are on alert in the area. In another development, the Islamic Jihad Organization issued a statement in Beirut confirming its responsibility for the Israeli Embassy bombing in Buenos Aires and dismissing as "false" earlier claims that it was not responsible for the blast, Voice of Lebanon disclosed.

Egypt

President Mubarak has "personally" rejected a U.S. memorandum calling on Cairo to adopt "certain political stances" toward Libya in exchange for extra economic assistance from Washington, Tripoli radio reported, citing Egyptian political sources in the London-based SAWT-AL ARAB.

Syria

Damascus has reopened two border crossings with Iraq—al-Walid and Abu Kamal—for trade traffic, the clandestine Voice of the Iraqi People reported. The border points were opened up after Jordan and Turkey took steps to halt trade with Baghdad. Iraqi-Syrian borders had been closed since 1980, the radio noted.

Algeria

The leader of Hamas in Algeria has criticized the Higher State Council's dealings with the country's Islamic movement as "a dialogue of the deaf," Algiers radio reported. In another development, former President Chadli Bendjedid denied accusations leveled by former President Ben Bella that he stole $10 to $15 billion from government coffers, Algiers radio reported.

India

The government held its first official talks with Israel since relations were upgraded to the diplomatic level in January, Delhi radio reported. Both sides viewed the talks as a "good beginning" in their bilateral relationship, the radio added. In another development, Delhi launched its domestically built nuclear submarine "Shankul" in Bombay on 21 March, described by Delhi TV as a "state-of-the-art" vessel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Ministerial Committee on Libya Meets

NC2403114292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—The Arab ministerial committee formed in the Arab League Council's emergency session held a meeting in Cairo today to follow up developments in the Libyan crisis. During the meeting the conferees discussed the latest developments in light of Libya's announcement that it is ready to hand over the two Libyan suspects in the bombing of the U.S. airliner over Lockerbie in 1988 to the Arab League General Secretariat, which will forward them to the UN secretary general for trial in any of the three countries concerned with this issue—the United States, France, or Britain.

Arab League Chief on Outcome of Emergency Meeting

LD2303190292 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, al-Rabia 23, JANA, Arab Maghreb Union Pool—The Secretary General of the Arab League, Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid reaffirmed the League's rejection of any resolution which would be taken against the Great Jamahariyah to impose draconian measures against her.

In a press conference held yesterday evening at the Arab League's headquarters, at the close of the emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the various Arab sectors, Dr. Majid said that the discussions conducted by the foreign ministers had been constructive and successful and had confirmed the desire of all the Arab countries to see a peaceful solution to the current crisis between the Great Jamahariyah on one side and the United States, Britain and France on the other. He also said that all had been careful not to fuel the dangerous tensions which exist with relation to Libya and the entire Arab nation. He said that the Council of the League had held a lengthy session in which they examined all the aspects and important points which they said they were anxious to uphold and specifically to halt the passing of the resolution pertaining to chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter given that it is the dictates of the sixth and not the seventh chapter of the United Nations Charter which should be applied. He said that the Arab League was mindful of trying to ensure the implementation of the sixth chapter of the United Nations Charter to arrive at a settlement to this problem.

He said: We have the greatest consideration and appreciation for the civilized stance and the wise policy pursued by the Great Jamahariyah in order to seek a solution to this problem, and namely resorting to the International Court of Justice which will be holding its first sitting on the 26th of this month.

Dr. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid added that he believed that Libya's stance was constructive and clear pointing out that this stance triggerred rapid and successive developments whereby there had been a response and unanimity from all the arab sectors whom had announced their support and solidarity with the Great Jamahariyah in seeking a peaceful solution to this problem.

At his press conference, the secretary general of the Arab League indicated that the secretary general of the United Nations had been informed of the resolutions and the latest developments. He said that he believed that this resolution is considered to be one among the documents of the United Nations and that all beseech the council and all the countries who are permanent members to pace themselves vis-a-vis the matter in order to find a peaceful solution to this problem.

'Abd-al-Majid on Libya, Region's Crises

PM2303162592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Mar 92 p 3

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Sattar] What are the results of the Arab League's efforts to ease the crisis between Libya and the West following your repeated contacts and meetings with the U.S., British, and French ambassadors?

['Abd-al-Majid] There can be no doubt that that crisis reflects a serious situation which has preoccupied the Arab League from the beginning. In coordination with the Arab leaders I have held contacts with all the officials involved in the crisis. I have asked UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali to work for the implementation of the Arab League Council's resolution calling for the formation of a joint UN-Arab League legal commission. I also informed Dr. Ghali of Libya's willingness to cooperate fully with the international organization with a view to finding a peaceful and satisfactory solution to the crisis.

I must point out here that Libya has demonstrated flexibility reflecting clear sensibility and understanding. That has enhanced its credibility and confirmed its commitment to international legitimacy and the identification of the party responsible for the U.S. Pan Am and the French UTA incidents.

['Abd-al-Sattar] But do you think that, as the crisis is escalating, there is a real threat to Libya?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that, when making any decision, the Western states concerned with the crisis will take into consideration the decision made by all the Arab states in solidarity with and in support of Libya, particularly after the Libyan leadership's repeated declarations of full adherence to the rules of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sattar] Do you believe that the Arab League is no longer capable of solving pressing Arab problems and crises such as the matter of Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq and the Somali crisis?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab League has not failed to do its duty in connection with any Arab issue, especially the problem of the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees in Iraq and the serious situation in Somalia. Our efforts have not stopped since we sent Ambassador 'Abdallah Adam to Iraq for 18 days, during which he met with scores of POW's. I have handed Ambassador 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Ji'an, Kuwait's permanent representative at the Arab League, a report on the results of the League envoy's mission, and I have asked the Kuwaiti Government to set a date for Ambassador Adam to visit Kuwait to complete his mission. I have also informed the Iraqi Government that it was necessary to release all the Kuwaitis held in Iraq so that we could help the Iraqi people and ease their suffering.

As regards the Somali crisis, the Arab League has acted seriously and swiftly to solve the Somali crisis and help the fraternal Somali people out of their affliction and plight. The Arab League met at permanent representative level on 5 January to discuss ways of ending the crisis. It called for an immediate cease-fire by the warring parties in Mogadishu and instructed an Arab ministerial commission to hold contacts with the Somali parties concerned to pave the way for an urgent meeting at the Arab League headquarters or in any Arab state to bring about national reconcilation in Somalia. The Arab League also decided to set up a fund to provide urgent relief for the Somali people and help them overcome their difficult and tragic living conditions and prevent famine.

['Abd-al-Sattar] How true are the reports claiming differences of opinion between the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]?

['Abd-al-Majid] I do not know how people can still claim such a thing after my recent meeting with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah and the signing, by me and him, of a document providing for cooperation between the two organiztions. That document is based on several principles, especially commitment to the Arab League charter and adherence to Arab and international legitimacy, in addition to the agreement to hold regular annual meetings between the Arab League and GCC secretaries general at the respective headquarters of the two organizations.

['Abd-al-Sattar] Do you not agree with me that implementation of the Arab summit resolution calling for the creation of an international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon is extremely slow?

['Abd-al-Majid] I agree with you, and I urge the Arab states to make the financial contributions necessary for the reconstruction of Lebanon and to help the government establish peace and national accord in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sattar] As we are in the holy month of Ramadan, the issue of Jerusalem and the securing of its religious sanctity place a heavy responsibility on the Arab League's shoulders. What role is the Arab League playing in defense of Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-Majid] Jerusalem is of special importance because of its Islamic and Christian holy places. [passage omitted]

The Arab League has strongly condemned all the Israeli measures aimed at changing the face of Jerusalem. What Israel is doing is a flagrant violation of international law and, particularly, of the 1949 fourth Geneva convention, which stipulates that the occupation authorities must respect civilians and must not violate their institutions, property, or heritage. It also commits the occupation authorities to the preservation of the ancient cultural heritage.

All the Israeli measures in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories are mainly meant to torpedo the peace process in the region.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What is the Arab League's position on the water issue, which is tipped to become one of the causes of Middle East tension?

['Abd-al-Majid] The water issue is extremely vital and calls for a future Arab strategy. That is why I have called for an Arab conference on water, to be attended by the Arab states concerned with this problem. I say openly that the Middle East will be facing a new challenge as far as water is concerned. Certain powers are above all interested in seizing the sources of Arab water and using them to serve their own interests at the expense of Arab water security. I therefore warn that any attempt to steal Arab water would be in direct and blatant defiance of the current peace efforts and would plunge the region into a new whirlpool of tension over water resources. [passage omitted]

Libya's al-Turayki on Arab League Resolution

LD2303142192 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's Arab League representative, by studio announcer, from Cairo—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Doctor, we would like you to shed some light on the Arab Council of Foreign Ministers' resolution issued yesterday at the end of its emergency meeting in Cairo.

[Al-Turayki] As you know, this is the third resolution issued by the League since the begining of the crisis. There was a resolution in December and another in January at the level of permanent representatives, and this is the first at the foreign ministers' level. The Arab countries' response was quick, with the participation of most of the foreign ministers, as more than 15 foreign minister took

part. The meeting issued a resolution affirming the Arab countries' solidarity with Libya and stressing the rejection of any sanctions against the Jamahiriyah.

This resolution was issued unanimously in a solidarity manner. The most important part of this resolution is the setting up of a ministerial committee composed of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, and the Jamahiriyah in order to follow up the situation. The committee has held its first meeting with the participation of the [Arab League] general secretary. He is also a member of the committee. The committee has drawn up a plan of action, and will resume its work.

[Announcer] Doctor, in the case of another resolution [not specified] passed through the Security Council by the Western countries concerned, do you not see in that a bypassing and vulgarization of Arab will, as expressed in the Arab League resolutions?

[Al-Turayki] [word indistinct] that attempts to use Chapter 7 of the charter to impose sanctions against Libya is unacceptable and contravenes the charter itself, which is supposed to apply to any country that launches armed or any aggression against another country in a way liable to threaten world peace and security. This has not happened in Libya's case, and therefore imposing the sanctions is a political, not legal, issue which bears no relation to the case. We hope that the Arab stand will help make UN Security Council officials review their decisions and stave off the trap.

[Announcer] How was the debate which led to this resolution conducted? Is there understanding and awareness of the perils of the phase, and of what is being hatched against the Arab nation?

[Al-Turayki] There is understanding by and solidarity from all Arab countries. It is understood that the Arab nation is targeted, and that the attempt emanating from the Security Council to implement Chapter 7 of the charter against the Jamahiriyah is of the utmost gravity. The Security Council has even failed to unequivocally condemn the Zionist entity, which occupies Arab land and carries out aggression against the Arabs, and which has occupied their lands for many years. It follows that there is a feeling among the Arabs that they are being targeted.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Denies Conflict on Confederation

PM2303143592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Mar 92 p 3

['Ali Nun report: "'Abd-Rabbuh Tells AL-HAYAH: Confederation With Jordan Is Integration Which Does Not Harm Two Sides' Rights"]

[Excerpt] London—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that in talking about confederation with Jordan "we are seeking integration without harming the Jordanian and Palestinian sides' rights and goals." He emphasized that "protecting the Jordanian entity is a Palestinian aim, and Palestinian sovereignty over Palestinian territory is a Jordanian aim." In an interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday he repeated that the Palestinian side will not withdraw from the peace negotiations with Israel because if it does this "it will be giving the best service possible" to Yitzhaq Shamir's government and "we will be making it easy for it to escape its isolation and to avoid the impact of foreign and internal pressures on it."

Asked about the renewed raising of the confederation question at this time and the reactions provoked by it, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "Agreement on a confederation does not conflict with Palestinian sovereignty, nor does it conflict with Jordan's independence and the protection of its entity. And obviously the confederation cannot be established except after Israel does withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories. But under such an agreement Jordan can demand—along with representation for the Palestinian people in these negotiations—a withdrawal from these territories. The Jordanian role for which we are hoping is an element of support for, not an impairment of the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian aims of self-determination.

"At the political level we see the two sides maintaining their role in peace negotiations within the two-track framework in accordance with the political agreement concluded between them before the Madrid conference. And we see the Jordanian side demanding within its track—as it has done since the start—the implementation of Resolution 242 and a withdrawal from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 to guarantee the Palestinian people's sovereignty over their national territory within the confederation framework."

Asked whether raising the confederation issue has provoked conflict in Palestinian ranks, 'Abd-Rabbuh expressed the belief that "there is no conflict but rather some distortion, because some brothers in Jordan believe that the request seeks to impose on Jordan burdens that are beyond its capacity, while some Palestinian views portray the matter as an impairment of Palestinian sovereignty. Actually, both positions are wrong. This is because Jordan cannot refrain from its role in bolstering the demand for recovering the Palestinian territories, nor should we regard that role as a reduction of the Palestinian role. We are seeking integration without harming the Jordanian or the Palestinian sides' rights and goals." [passage omitted]

PLO Central Council Meeting Delayed Until 6 Apr

JN2403085092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has decided to postpone the PLO Central Council meeting until 6 April. This is

because the date previously set for the meeting, 29 March, coincides with the celebration of al-Qadr Night [the night the Koran was revealed] in the month of Ramadan and will be very close to the 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

Commentary Criticizes Performance of UN's Ghali

LD2303234692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, on Butrus Ghali's 79th day in his new post of UN secretary general he held a news conference in which he assessed his tenure. Two basic points emerged in this news conference: first, Security Council Resolution 242 which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands it occupied in 1967 as one of the fundamental requirements for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in the region is not binding. The new UN secretary general believes that Security Council resolutions become binding if they are based on Article 7 of the UN Charter, which does not apply to Resolution 242. Second, in seeking to set up and follow through with a policy of preventative diplomacy, the United Nations requires additional possibilities of obtaining data from its own organs.

The new secretary general emphasized that guaranteeing the independence of the organization and assuring its efficiency in playing the preventative role asked of it requires that the United Nations have its own intelligence system, and if we want the independence of the United Nations to continue, it must avoid receiving information from U.S. independent intelligence organs.

In our opinion the secretary general was not at all correct in what he said, but we wish to raise two points. First, we consider all Security Council resolutions to be binding, and anyone responsible for implementing the texts of the resolutions should be committed to this, all the more so if the side concerned is a member of the United Nations.

Naturally, we do not expect that every time it issues a binding resolution the Security Council should use Article 7 of the charter to impose the commitment on the side committed by the text of the resolution issued.

This side is expected to implement, of its own volition, what the UN Security Council expects it to implement, and should it fail to do so the UN Security Council can then resort to all kinds of measures—starting with the use of various forms of limited embargoes up to a total economic embargo and finally to the use of military force in accordance with Article 7 of the UN Charter—to compel it to do so.

Thus the UN secretary general has committed a clear and flagrant error in his evaluation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, at a time when he is well aware of and fully concerned with the Palestinian Arab-Israeli conflict.

As for the second point, our reservation about it stems from the fact that we are not convinced that the independence of the United Nations depends on it having a second intelligence apparatus. Its independence can only be strengthened by changing the nature of the relationship between the world organization and the permanent members of the UN Security Council who subjugate the world organization to safeguard their own interests and those of their allies and to render it ineffective.

It suffices for us to say in this regard that the obstruction of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 is not due to any shortage of independent intelligence at the disposal of the United Nations but rather due to the fact that throughout the past period the United States has procrastinated to prevent its implementation.

For this reason the success of UN diplomacy requires that the world organization abandon the direction in which it is being molded and instead concentrate on holding the North back from the South.

Algeria

Boudiaf Acknowledges Need for Government Changes

LD2303223692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf has stated that he is not anyone's hostage but that all people are hostages of an acute crisis.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic weekly magazine AL-AWSAT Mr. Boudiaf said that the regime is pursuing the establishment of a national rally to find a comprehensive solution to the country's problems. He added that Algeria will undergo important changes.

In reply to a question about whether stopping the course of elections, declaring the state of emergency, and the state taking over the headquarters of the political parties do not constitute a blow against democracy, Mr. Boudiaf said that these are not blows against the democratic experiment but rather are blows against grave violations and against everything that opposes democracy. He said that he wondered whether democracy means forming political parties through the use of state funds.

As for the deep changes in the methods and structures of the regime which are awaited by the people, Boudiaf said: The elections of 26 December revealed two issues: the urgent hope for deep change and the acute thirst for social justice. The Islamic Salvation Front was the first party to exploit these two demands and to benefit from them to the greatest possible extent. Therefore, the new regime is taking the two demands into account and is doing its best to meet them as quickly as possible.

Mr. Boudiaf said: Those who fault us on the recent cabinet reshuffle should understand that the time is not yet right for a radical change because such a change should not be carried out in a hasty and improvised way. He pointed out: If the people do not like the new cabinet reshuffle then we also have our reservations about it. We accepted these slight changes, however, because it was not possible to change everything within one month or in a little more than a month because we were not inside the ruling regime, and hence we were not able to get to know its secrets and its personnel during that limited period.

Mr. Boudiaf said: Change remains at the top of our list of priorities, however. It starts with changing the Constitution itself without ignoring the government and its means and methods of action.

Ex-President Bendjedid Denies Stealing $10 Billion

LD2103223292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Former President Chadli Bendjedid has spoken out against accusations directed at him by Ahmed Ben Bella, also a former president, concerning the transfer of sums ranging between $10 and $15 billion during his period of office.

Mr. Bendjedid told APS that he is ready to cooperate fully with the judicial authorities in order to shed light on the wealth and property in his possesion. He denied that he possesses property and wealth in addition to that permitted by his salary as a former official and head of state.

FIS Lawyer Says Banning Verdict 'Illegal'

LD2403030792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] It was learned today that the administrative court's decision to dissolve the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] has been conveyed to Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, the official in charge of the FIS Provisional Executive Bureau, who is currently detained in Serkaggi Prison.

In a statement to AFP Mr. Ibrahim Touati, one of the Front's lawyers, said that he considered the resolution to be void and illegal because the document handed to Cheikh Hachani, who is not considered to be involved in the case, does not include the name of the legitimate representative of the party or his address, as required by law.

The same lawyer condemned the grave violation of the rights of the defendant. He explained that three major documents have disappeared from the case file, including the statement by the chairman of the Constitutional Council saying that the formation of the FIS was compatible with the Constitution; the text of a news conference by Cheikh Hachani in which he announced that the FIS needs the history and experience of the National People's Army; and a number of essays by Cheikh Ali Belhadj in which he renounced violence.

In his statement to AFP Mr. Ibrahim Touati denied the report that the FIS' defense demands that the Supreme Court repeal the dissolution decision. He said: We do not demand, but we are appealing to the Supreme Court against the verdict after the decision was conveyed.

FFS Leader Condemns 'Repressive Policies'

NC2303155592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, 23 Mar (MENA)—Hocine Ait Ahmed, secretary general of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has called for the formation of a new transitional government in Algeria comprising "trustworthy figures" to prepare for elections for a constitutional council to draw up a new constitution. The FFS leader noted that since independence in 1962 Algeria has led "an abnormal constitutional life."

In statements to a MENA correspondent in Algeria Hocine Ait Ahmed criticized the policies of the current government under Sid Ahmed Ghozali, saying that it followed "repressive policies" and failed to address the country's economic and social problems. He attributed the government's poor performance to the fact that it

does not consult with influential forces in the country such as labor unions, parties, and businessmen.

The FFS leader added: The failure of Ghozali's government in addressing Algeria's problems has created an atmosphere of pessimism and violence that could threaten the country's future, particularly because price subsidies will be completely lifted next April.

As for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] issue, Ahmed said that he always favors political means to resolve any problem. He added that dictatorship is responsible for the increased role of the mosque in political life because the public was left with no other outlet to vent its frustration. Hocine Ait Ahmed observed that the current state of emergency in Algeria obstructs the activities of parties and added that the existence of parties is the only guarantee that the FIS will not end up with a monopoly on the country's political life and options.

Hamas Leader Criticizes Higher State Council

LD2403094192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Hamas [Islamic Society Movement], called on the Higher State Council to contain the phenomenon of violence in Algeria by instituting a democratic and civilized dialogue between all political forces. Cheikh Nahnah, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, called for economic aid for Algeria, the encouraging of investment, and not ignoring foreign and Western investment.

In an interview published today by AL-HAYAH Cheikh Nahnah criticized the Higher State Council's manner in its dealings with the Islamic forces, describing it as a dialogue of the deaf.

Army Pamphlet Urges Disobedience Against Regime

NC1203210992 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Mar 92 pp 1, 6

[Ahmad al-Suyufi report]

[Excerpt] All the Islamic and democratic leaderships in Algeria have begun to rally against the decision to dissolve the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The war of pamphlets inside the Army has started for the first time since the military coup. AL-SHA'B has succeeded in obtaining a copy of the first secret pamphlet distributed in the country which incited the people to rise against the coupists and to expose their plots. The pamphlet (in our possession) called on the Algerian people to act and to prepare for the day of decision. It emphasized that the Army will disobey the orders of the generals and the Higher Council for Treachery (according to the pamphlet). AL-SHA'B has learned from an informed U.S. source that the political assessment in Western capitals is that the current situation in Algeria is fragile and unstable. The source expects an imminent collapse and the FIS to assume power this June.

The pamphlet was signed by a group of officers who called themselves (the Group of Noble Officers in the National Popular Army).

The pamphlet began by addressing the Algerian people as follows: We are a group of noble officers who are your sons. We have faced difficulties for the sake of our precious homeland, against which a clique of people who have nothing to do with you or Islam is plotting.

They are leading Algeria toward a deadly, bloody war for the sake of fulfilling personal goals that conflict with the interests of Algeria and Islam. The coup staged by a group of traitors and hypocrites was agreed on following the results of the first round of elections in which the FIS had a strong showing because the people elected it freely, honestly, and democratically. Because their personal interests conflict with those of Islam and Algeria they decided to stage the coup on 11 January. Contrary to what they said in the newspapers under their control, there is absolutely no truth in their claim that 188 military officers signed a petition to topple Chadli Bendjedid. The fact is that the butcher and criminal defense minister Khaled Nezzar met secretly with the commanders of the homeland's six military zones at the Boufarik military base on 30 December 1991. They unanimously decided to stage a military coup against Algeria and its people.

The pamphlet said in Clause (4) that military units all over the national territory are in a state of internal turmoil and a conflict is on the horizon between those who support the coup—who are few—and those who support the people and its choice, who are the majority. They are in a state of confrontation because the military establishment has turned into a center of injustice on the side of the generals and those under them.

In Clause (5) the pamphlet said: Those who staged the treacherous coup should have presented detailed reports on the poor condition of military equipment to the Algerian people through television and the press. Aviation equipment is deteriorating at an alarming rate, advanced equipment is not being renewed, and there are no spare parts. The use of (25) MiG-21 and (20) MiG-23 aircraft will cease in May. The military air base in Ain Oussera Sarra are full of useless Sukhoy-24 aircraft. It is Algeria and its people which are the big losers. The armored, antiaircraft, and missile batteries have turned into a pile of useless weapons by the sons of France, who have been forcibly placed in charge of the Army. Those who bought the weapons did not even know how to buy potatoes and therefore purchased weapons (armored vehicles, tanks, and helicopters) which cannot withstand the heat of the Algerian desert.

In Clause (6) the pamphlet said: The meeting of the traitors at the Boufarik air base resulted in structural changes in the military commands after the zone commanders returned to their offices. They started to ostracize all those with a national spirit and appointed traitors in their place, such as what traitor Saleh Qayed [name as

published] and traitor Said Mekhtroud did. We learned that strict orders were issued to redeploy and move military units toward the capital and Blida and to reinforce the rear military zone in Medea, Djelfa, Laghouat, and Tebessa. Orders were also sent to naval units to be ready.

In Clause (9) [the pamphlet said] that most of the traitors did not take part in our nation's wars—the war of liberation, or the 1967 or 1973 wars. Military records in the Defense Ministry expose them and we possess incriminating evidence against them.

In conclusion, the pamphlet addressed the Algerian people: Our noble people: We pledge to you that we are at the service of the homeland and Islam and that we will protect your choice. We are ready to reject and disobey the orders to be issued soon by the Higher Council for Treachery to massacre the Algerian people. We call on you to act and to prepare for the day of decision. The butchers Nezzar, Lamari, Ghezaiel, Mekhroud, Saleh Qayed, and General Tewfik have chosen the language of weapons, bullets, tanks, and planes. Do not be frightened. We are of you and you are of us and the day will soon come when they will be shaken and their chairs toppled over. Sharpen your blades, clean your weapons, and be sincere to God, the Lord of the two universes. You can choose between dying in glory or dignity and joining the record of the immortals, or living in humiliation and shame. [passage omitted]

Government Benefits To Aid Low-Income Citizens

LD2803153992 Algiers APS in Arabic 1245 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, 23 Mar (APS)—In anticipation of the freeing of prices early next month the competent authorities in charge of the new measures set by the government to aid the deprived members of society are focusing on completing these measures to make them effective from that date.

The system of compensation will directly affect those most deprived. Within this framework those without income will receive monthly compensation of 120 dinars per capita. On the other hand, those people earning less than or the equivalent of 7,000 dinars will benefit from two types of compensation, namely a family supplementary benefit of about 60 dinars for each child per month and a single wage compensation set at 500 dinars.

It was also decided that a supplement of 120 dinars a month will be offered in addition to grants and pensions.

Such direct state support coming from the compensation fund will no doubt alleviate the burden on low-income families.

It should be recalled that this will affect approximately 14 million people.

Boudiaf Meets With Libyan Official al-Humaydi

LD2303184792 Tripoli JANA in English 1618 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, al-Rabia' [March] 23, JANA, Arab Maghreb Union pool—The Chairman of the Supreme Council of State in Algeria Mohamed Boudiaf yesterday received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi who gave him a message from the leader of the revolution.

The major's talks with Boudiaf centred around a number of important issues particularly in respect of the recent developements in the international arena.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi praised Algier's stance in supporting the Great Jamahariyyah and appreciated the understanding of Mohamed Boudiaf the chairman of the Supreme Council and the other senior officials in Algeria.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi in a statement following the reception, commended the position of the westerly Arab countries who support the Great Jamahariyyah. They confirmed the need to adopt a unified Arab stance vis a vis the flagrant violations of international charters and conventions.

Major al-Humaydi stated that the issue is far from being one of the airline incident. He indicated that it is a colonialist conspiracy with strategic dimensions targetting the whole Arab nation as a prelude to its colonialisation and dismemberment yet again.

Major al-Humaydi confirmed the need to confront this ugly colonialist strategy through a unified Arab stance where the Arabs use their right to reject all that opposes their national interests.

Algiers Rejects Anti-Libyan UN Measures

LD2403022592 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] TAP cited an authorized Algerian source as saying Algeria rejects any ("restrictive) measure which might be issued by the UN Security Council against Libya. The source added that Algeria stands by the Arab states ("in their) unified stand rejecting these measures.

He pointed out that Algeria sent representatives to America, Britain, and France to warn them about the difficult situation which could result from any ("restrictive) measure against Libya, for this would be considered blatant defiance of the whole Arab nation.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Briefs Mubarak on Libya Crisis

NC2403103092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—After a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Foreign Minister 'Amr

Musa said he had briefed the president on the latest developments in the Libyan-Western crisis following the Arab League Council's meeting.

He added that he is following the situation first hand, and that he expects specific measures to be taken to solve this crisis.

U.S. Call for Anti-Libya Position 'Rejected'

LD2303210392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] London, 23 Mar (JANA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has rejected a U.S. memorandum calling on it to adopt certain political stances against the Great Jamahiriyah, in return for additional U.S. economic assistance in the form of cash.

Egyptian political sources have told the London-based newspaper SAWT AL-ARAB that President Muhammad Mubarak personally rejected the memorandum, and called for the resolution of the crisis by peaceful means in accordance with international charters and laws.

Mubarak Efforts Praised by Libyan Congress

NC2103145692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (MENA)—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress in Libya has praised President Husni Mubarak's pan-Arab stand on the Libyan-Western crisis. The secretariat stated that this stand proves the common destiny, and shows that Arab Egypt always stands beside its brothers.

The Secretariat of the General People's Congress, the only political organization in Libya, cabled President Mubarak this evening, saying: The people's congresses in the Jamahiriyah salute your courageous pan-Arab stand, and your statements in your meeting with your brother President Hafiz al-Asad during his visit to Cairo. Your statements underlined your firm support, solidarity, and backing for your people in the Jamahiriyah and in Iraq in the face of threats made by the Western states. This stand proves the common destiny, showing that Arab Egypt always stands beside its brothers.

Mr. President: You have truly proved your worth as Egypt's leader by placing Egypt in its rightful place in history. Your Arab people in Libya will not forget this historic stand, and will always appreciate it and be grateful. Once again we salute you and repeat our thanks and respect to you and, through you, to the great people of Egypt. May peace be upon you.

Commentary on Arab League Meeting, Libya Crisis

NC2203154592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Arab Efforts To Overcome the Crisis Facing Libya"]

[Text] Egypt's Arab, regional, and international policy is based on the belief in international norms and the rejection of terror, whether committed by individuals or countries. Egypt has always supported international legitimacy and rejected any interference in any country's domestic affairs. A country that respects the free will of nations, Egypt has never taken part in any act against the wishes of any nation or those of the international community. Egypt has always opposed terror. It is no exaggeration to say that most Arab countries have adopted the same principles that guide Egypt. Most Arab countries support international legitimacy and reject terror.

Today Egypt hosts an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, necessitated by the international circumstances surrounding the accusations against Libyan citizens and Western countries' intentions to impose sanctions against Libya if it fails to comply with certain demands.

The issue should be approached according to those principles which Arab countries believe and support: International law and the rejection of terror. Libya has announced that it rejects terror and refuses to support it, distancing itself from any terrorist act of which it might be accused.

Some sides try to condemn Libya's stand, but Libyan diplomacy has consistently denounced all forms of terror. Egypt, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in particular, have tried to ensure that the threats against Libya are not carried out. Other Arab countries followed Egypt's lead and, acting on the same principles, coordinated their efforts to confirm that the Arabs reject terror and are working to overcome the crisis between Libya and the Western countries which accuse it.

Egypt is holding intense contacts with all sides, aiming to contain the situation and prevent it getting out of hand. Egypt is also doing its utmost to prevent any resolutions being passed that might harm Libya or its neighbors, for whom any UN Security Council resolution against Libya might have repercussions.

Egypt and other Arab countries have repeatedly confirmed that they oppose terror, and are therefore not ready to accept any aggression against any Arab country. President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated this stand during their last meeting, and affirmed that they reject any attack against Libya. Egypt and Syria stood firmly against Iraq when it attacked a brotherly country, Kuwait. The two countries do not approve of any aggression against Libya, and will cooperate with other Arab countries currently meeting in Cairo to overcome the crisis facing Libya. Arab countries are looking for the best means to satisfy justice. They seek a way to implement international legitimacy while fully upholding justice.

'News Analysis' Urges Peaceful Solution

NC2203114892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Mar 92

[News analysis by Ahmad Subhi]

[Text] Today's emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, held at Libya's request, is set to discuss an Arab position on the Western draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council on imposing sanctions against Libya. The Arab countries, primarily Egypt—which the Arab League represents—have played a prominent role in containing the crisis. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid urged the Security Council to postpone passing a resolution on the crisis until after Thursday, when the International Court of Justice considers the dispute between Libya and France, Britain, and the United States over two Libyan nationals accused of blowing up one French and one American airliner.

As part of the Arab effort to contain the crisis, the Arab League in December declared its solidarity with Libya and called for a joint United Nations-Arab League committee to study the documents on the issue, in line with the two bodies' existing cooperation, possibly including other parties as observers. On 16 January the Arab League Council decided to ask the League's secretary general to ask Dr. Butrus Ghali to try to get all the parties to settle the crisis peacefully. Egypt played a special role in containing the crisis, with moves to settle it peacefully and to keep it away from confrontation. While Egypt condemns terrorism, it sticks to relying on international law and searching for peaceful solutions away from military threats. Egyptian diplomacy realizes that the region can no longer tolerate economic or other losses after the Gulf catastrophe.

Editorial on U.S. 'Hurry' To Impose Sanctions

NC2303085292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 23 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today entitled "The Libyan Crisis and Arab Unanimity," AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Arab League Council meeting came after signs emerged of a move toward imposing some kind of blockade on sisterly Libya, based on claims that it failed to comply with a UN resolution demanding the extradition of two Libyans accused of being involved in the U.S. and French airliner incidents. This issue is being handled outside its proper framework. The Security Council resolution changed the case from a legal issue to a political one. Within this framework, any uncalculated measures could lead to grave consequences. Egypt is taking the sound and objective approach to this problem, seeking to contain and calm the crisis to avoid any erroneous step.

The paper notes that the Arab League meeting would be extremely beneficial if it backed the Egyptian stand practically, letting each member state do what it can to calm the situation and search for a legal solution to the crisis. Solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's declaration that the Arab countries cannot comply with any sanctions on Libya, must be emphasized.

The paper concludes that the Arab meeting under these circumstances is extremely important and could be a sound step out of the dark tunnel.

In an editorial entitled "No Need To Rush Before Guilt is Validated", AL-AKHBAR asks why the United States and its partners France and Britain are in such a hurry for a UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Libya, which they blame for blowing up the U.S. and French airliners. Why do the three countries reject all the other proposals for neutral bodies to investigate the serious incidents in which hundreds of human lives were lost? The paper continues: Why is the U.S. Administration in such a rush to seek decisive Security Council measures over accusations that could later prove to be untrue or inaccurate?

The paper concludes by saying that the simplest legal principle, known to a first year law student, is that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty. The paper asks: Has a decisive verdict been passed incriminating Libya? If so, by whom?

Editorial Opposes Interception of Korean Ships

NC2103151692 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Why the Interception?"]

[Text] Recent reports indicate that U.S. ships are poised to intercept two North Korean ships carrying surface-to-surface missiles to Syria and Iran. We hope these reports are not correct, because the United States, as the only superpower, must deal with this issue wisely and fairly. It is inconceivable that Israel should produce all kinds of conventional and nonconventional weapons, and that the United States should give it modern weapons, that are better and more destructive than the Korean missiles that are allegedly on their way to Syria and Iran. It is also inconceivable that any state should assume the right to interfere in other states' private affairs when there has been no aggression on this state or against international law.

If arms control is necessary it must be done fairly, ensuring respect for the process. If the United States and the big powers want to apply this process to the Middle East, the nonconventional weapons in all the region's states—particularly Israel's nuclear and chemical weapons—must be destroyed as part of a more comprehensive plan to destroy these weapons worldwide. If this is impossible, then the balance of terror among the region's

states and in the world might better prevent new wars. The worst scenario involves stopping some states developing their weapons while allowing their enemies or neighbors to obtain and develop the most modern weapons. Such a scenario will tempt strong states to threaten peace without being afraid of the response.

Foreign Minister Musa Discusses African Issues

NC2003105292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Egyptian policy is working to set up firm bases for the mutual interest of Arab and African countries, and that this policy does not accept disseminating radical ideas or sowing rifts in Africa.

Musa was addressing the Consultative Council today during a debate of a report on Arab-African cooperation. He said that dialogue with Sudan is continuing nonstop to study the various aspects and elements of all existing problems, until the positive results Egyptian diplomacy hopes for are achieved.

Musa asked the Somali people and warring factions there to immediately stop the tragic situation, which will lead Somalia to an unfathomable abyss, adding that Somalia's interest should take precedence above all other interests.

He stressed that Egypt is the only country in the world that still maintains its embassy and embassy staff in Somalia, and that Egypt is in touch daily with leaders of all factions and tribes there, to heal the rift and unify the stand despite the difficult situation.

He said that Egypt will take the initiative by calling for a meeting of the Standing Committee for Arab-African Cooperation in Cairo should the committee fail to meet as scheduled in late May or early June. He noted the importance of genuine plans for Arab-African cooperation and said Egypt will not accept the meeting being merely a formal or nominal one. He pointed out that a venue for the meeting has not yet been fixed.

Musa asserted that Egypt is closely following the situation in the Horn of Africa, because the situation there affects Egypt's national security. He said our policy aims at accomplishing stability in the Horn of Africa. He expressed Egypt's sincere desire to extend assistance to all factions there.

He explained the importance of Arab-African relations being established on the basis of joint interest to achieve progress for all Arab and African peoples. He noted that the African market is willing to accept Arab products, and that the private sector should approach Africa, whether in contracts; industrial integration; or cultural, scientific, tourism, or religious exchange.

Musa emphasized the importance of Arab-African relations not being based on political ties alone, in return for supporting Arab causes—especially the Palestinian issue—or condemning racial discrimination in South Africa. Rather, he said, support from both parties should stem from firm political stands and principles and from the principle of common interest, noting the importance of dialogue on Arab and African issues and stands.

The Consultative Council debate of the report showed the importance of setting up an Arab-African parliamentary union to enhance cooperation and popular contacts to support diplomatic activity among African and Arab peoples, and the importance of forming specialized federations to achieve Arab-African integration in various spheres.

The council members stressed the importance of ending the debt problem from which African nations are suffering so that prosperity, development, and stability will be achieved for these people. The members also asserted the need to combat all forms and shapes of racial discrimination for the sake of freedom and independence.

Former Chief of Staff on Reasons for Return

NC2003155392 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 16 Mar 92 p 2

[Telephone interview with Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, former Egyptian chief of staff, by Mustafa Bakri in Algiers on 13 March]

[Excerpts] [Bakri] What are the real reasons behind your decision to return at this particular time?

[Al-Shadhili] Developments in the regional and international arena made it necessary for me to reconsider. Therefore, I decided to return to the homeland.

[Bakri] Is there a connection between this decision and the situation in Algeria? In other words, have the Algerian authorities asked you to leave?

[Al-Shadhili] I am not entitled to talk about Algeria's internal affairs. Algeria is free to make its own decisions. You should address this question to the Algerian authorities.

[Bakri] I am asking whether you have really been asked to leave Algeria.

[Al-Shadhili] And I am asking you to address this question to the Algerian authorities.

[Bakri] What about the National Front, which opposed the ruling regime in Egypt?

[Al-Shadhili] This is an irrelevant issue. The Front has been dissolved.

[Bakri] A verdict sentencing you to three years in prison was issued some time ago on charges of revealing military secrets.

[Al-Shadhili] I do not acknowledge that verdict, because it was issued in absentia and because I was not notified. Therefore, I will demand a retrial, and I am confident of my innocence.

[Bakri] What is your stand on the present regime in Egypt?

[Al-Shadhili] I am returning with the same beliefs and convictions. The only difference involves the place from which I practice opposition; I am changing it from Algiers to Egypt. There is no connection between my return and my political stands, because my stands have not changed.

[Bakri] Is there a chance of finding common ground between your stand and that of the regime in Egypt?

[Al-Shadhili] I stand on the opposition's side. I am thus exercising my constitutional right as an Egyptian citizen to express my views regarding the problems facing my country.

[Bakri] Are you going to join any of the opposition parties?

[Al-Shadhili] I have not yet developed a stand on this issue, although my political views and stands are known and declared.

[Bakri] In an interview with the British paper THE INDEPENDENT, journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal held the view that the Arabs are going back to Islamic fundamentalism. Do you agree with this?

[Al-Shadhili] I believe that Islam has the solution for all our problems. I voiced that view years ago. There is no solution to our chronic problems other than Islam.

[Bakri] Does this mean that you support the application of Islamic shari'ah?

[Al-Shadhili] Yes, I support the application of Islamic shari'ah. Islam helps develop the individual, who constitutes the basic unit of wealth in the society. If the individual is well built, then the whole society will be better off.

[Bakri] How do you assess the ongoing negotiations between Israel and the Arabs?

[Al-Shadhili] These negotiations will lead to nothing, as I said even before the talks started. Whoever thinks that Israel can go back on its occupation of Arab lands under the current criteria and the state of discord and division prevailing in the Arab region is mistaken.

The entire world is currently under U.S. hegemony. What then will force Israel to give up Arab lands? Personally, I believe that the hardline Israeli position will persist. Negotiations will not work with Israel. These negotiations are destined to fail.

[Bakri] Now that a year has passed since the Gulf crisis, do you believe that Saddam was right?

[Al-Shadhili] He was right about some matters and wrong about others. This is a long story that I studied in detail in my book *The Eighth Crusade* [al-harb al-salibiyah al-thaminah]. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Do you believe that the United States and some Western states may mount a military strike against Libya?

[Al-Shadhili] The possibility exists and I do not rule that out. The United States now controls the entire world. It has nothing to fear; the United Nations is eating out of its hand. No power resists it. What can it fear? It is already doing what it wants. Therefore, I do not rule out a U.S. strike against Libya.

[Bakri] Do you believe that Arabs, particularly Egypt, will stand beside Libya if it is subjected to aggression?

[Al-Shadhili] I do not think so. We cannot expect the Arab countries that stood by the United States against Iraq to stand by Libya. They may support Libya with words rather than deeds. But the policy America wants will undoubtedly take its course. [passage omitted]

More 'Extremists' Arrested in Officer's Murder

NC2003194692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—A surprise early-morning operation mounted against extremist hangouts in the al-Fayyum governorate, south of Cairo, resulted in the apprehension of four extremists, who were carrying firearms and daggers. The extremists are believed to have been involved in the recent death of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Hamid, a police officer in the State Investigations Bureau in al-Fayyum.

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects To Be Given to Arab League

NC2303195692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] United Nations, 23 Mar (MENA)—Libya has informed the nonaligned states of the UN Security Council that it is prepared to hand the two Libyans accused in the Lockerbie incident over to the Arab League Secretariat General in Cairo, which will turn them over to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, prior to forwarding them for trial in either the United States, Britain, or France.

'Ali al-Khudayri, Libyan permanent delegate at the United Nations, said that the Indian delegate in the UN Security Council informed the three states' delegates of this decision.

Dr. Ghali is scheduled to meet with the Libyan delegate later today to discuss the latest developments in the Libyan Government's stand on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 731.

The Security Council is expected to hold a session of consultations on Tuesday morning to discuss the developments.

Foreign Liaison Secretary Comments

LD2303233192 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has stressed that the discussions that took place during the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting were very objective, conducted in a positive spirit, and displayed a determination to find a peaceful settlement to the problem.

At a news conference last night on the premises of the Arab League, after the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting, he affirmed that the resolution passed at the meeting was issued unanimously by those present, and that all the ministers who spoke affirmed the just position of the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the news conference, he pointed out that the resolution stressed the need for goodwill to be displayed at all levels so that a peaceful solution to the problem can be found. He urged the UN Security Council to tackle the issue in accordance with the provisions of Clause 33 of Article 6 of the UN Charter, and not to resort to Article 7 of the Charter, because the Great Jamahiriyah has not threatened international security and peace, and is not a party to a conflict threatening international security and peace. The issue does not require the implementation of Article 7 of the UN Charter.

At the conclusion of the news conference, he said that the ministerial council has decided to form a ministerial committee composed of a number of foreign ministers, in addition to the secretary general of the Arab League, whose task is to make all the necessary urgent contacts with the parties concerned, with the chairman and members of the UN Security Council, and with the UN secretary general. The aim is to find a peaceful solution to the problem in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

The committee held a long meeting and studied the practical solutions that could be put forward for a peaceful settlement. It noted that any mandatory measures would most certainly have an adverse effect on neighboring countries, the Arab homeland, and perhaps the world.

Requests Files on Case

NC2303182892 Cairo MENA in English 1751 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] New York, March 23 (MENA)—Libya requested that the United Nations urge the United States, Britain, and France to hand over the files of investigations on the blasting of the Pan Am French UTA airliners to the Libyan justice so that it would finalise the investigations it is conducting over the bombing of the airliners. Libyan Secretary of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau Ibrahim al-Bishari, in the message he addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, stressed Libya's readiness to cooperate with the parties concerned on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter, international law, and sovereignty of states.

Al-Bishari added that if the Security Council holds the issue as a political one, it has to urge the parties concerned to resolve it politically and if it considers it a legal issue, as Libya does, it has to leave it to the international court of justice.

Call To Leave Country 'Ignored' by Westerners

LD2303232492 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabiah [Mar] 23, JANA, Arab Maghreb Union Pool—The world news reports have all put forth that the call issued by a number of Western countries to their nationals resident in the Great Jamahiriyah to leave, has not received any response.

The Mediterranean Sea Radio [as received] which can be received in Tripoli said that the call was completely ignored by the concerned nationals citing the testimony of one Western diplomat in the Great Jamahiriyah that there was no indication of any sign of response or reaction from any of the concerned nationals.

This diplomat added that he hadn't noticed any rush or crowding to reach the airports making clear that this had also been confirmed by the European air transport companies the latter attesting that they had experienced no increase in the number of its' flights

The Mediterranean Sea Radio also reported that it was confirmed, through actual records, that the Italian airlines company had not seen any increase in the number of its' flights, saying that this figure had remained the same, namely six flights a week.

The German airlines company Lufthansa and some diplomatic sources spoke of how Lufthansa had, in fact had to cancel a number of extra flights organised with the intention of evacuating Germans residing in the Great Jamahiriyah. This occurred when it became apparent that the number of usual flights between Germany and the Great Jamahiriyah did not require that flights be increased and instead that a number of existing flights were leaving empty of passengers.

The Mediterranean Sea Radio also reported, citing Western diplomatic sources, that the main reason for the nationals of the Western countries to not respond their governments call to leave was that by leaving the Great Jamahiriyah they would be at risk of having their contracts annulled.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cable Marks Arab League Anniversary

LD2303222792 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution sent a cable to the Arab kings and presidents on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the Arab League.

The cable says: We hope that our strong league sets off to become an efficient instrument in realizing the aspirations of our Arab nation for unity, pride, and dignity, by amending its charter to include our proposal to turn it into an Arab union, and to promote ad hoc ministerial councils and enable them to assume their tasks in building our glorious nation and its future. We also emphasize the need for implementing economic, defense, information, cultural, and other agreements. Because of the grave changes and disturbances that our world is going through, we must strengthen our ranks and realize solidarity, for our Arab nation has no means to protect its existence and entity other than unity.

Message Sent to Secretary General

LD2303224292 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution sent a cable to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the Arab League. He affirmed that all Arabs hoped that the Arab League would turn into an Arab union to protect and build the Arab nation, which is facing several challenges. The brother leader said that the Arab nation had no refuge except in achieving comprehensive unity from the Atlantic to the Gulf, in a world which has become a source of anxiety and fear for small peoples that have nothing except unity to protect them, and guarantee their future and existence.

In his cable to the Arab League secretary general, the brother leader pointed out: What gives us confidence that the Arab League will turn into an Arab union is that the day marking this occasion coincides with the convening of the emergency session of the Arab states' foreign ministers, in which they unanimously agreed to stand by Libya, which is facing challenges for its steadfast pan-Arab stands.

European Assets Reportedly Transferred to Egypt

JN2303154692 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Mar 92 pp 1, 26

[Excerpt] World capitals, AL-ITTIHAD, News agencies—[passage omitted] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that part of Libya's assets in European countries and the United States have been transferred to Egypt and other Arab countries.

An official Egyptian banking source has said that most of the Libyan money transferred to Egypt was deposited in the four state-run commercial banks: Bank of Egypt, National Bank of Egypt, Bank of Alexandria, and Bank of Cairo. He did not reveal the amount of money deposited, however, as there is a law protecting the secrecy of accounts in Egyptian banks.

The source added that, in case of economic sanctions, the Libyan Government has requested financing of its need for foodstuffs from Egypt or any other country, using these assets.

The source noted that before the Lockerbie crisis, the Libyan Government intended to transfer part of its assets abroad to Egypt, becasue of decisions to freeze assets recently taken by Western governments against a number of Arab countries. Thus, these assets were threatened should a political or economic dispute break out with the countries where the assets were deposited.

On the other hand, in the past two months many credits were opened by Libyan companies to import foodstuffs and commodities from Egypt in anticipation of future economic sanctions. Meanwhile, most deals on other commodities were temporarily canceled, and no commercial deals have been concluded between Egyptian and Libyan companies in the past three months. [passage omitted]

Editor Denounces 'Unjust' Western Campaign

LD2103181592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA)—JANA's Arab affairs editor denounces the unjust and outrageous campaign waged by the three big powers, who are issuing coercive resolutions against the Arab nation, country by country and state by state. The Arab nation's people can no longer bear the injustice and outrage emanating from the three big powers in the form of coercive resolutions against the Arab nation—country by country and state by state—on the basis of weak justifications and evidence, taking advantage of their control of the Security Council, and their possession of the veto.

The editor says that this control and the possession of the veto have become a weapon against the Arabs, at a time when the big powers use the veto and their control of the Security Council in a way which is beneficial to Israel. Israel refuses to abide by the more than 49 Security Council resolutions—none of which was implemented by the Israelis—because of the these countries' use of the veto in favor of the Israelis, or turning a blind eye and refraining from forcing them to implement these resolutions, as they did and still do with the Arabs, who are being subjected to false and outrageous resolutions which they are forced to implement.

The Arab affairs editor says that the truth of what is taking place against Iraq has become crytal clear for the Arab people. So has what has happened, and is still happening, regarding the resolutions drafted by the foreign ministries of the three countries against Arab countries such as Libya, and the use of pressure and threats to force the Security Council to approve unjust resolutions.

The issue is a matter of priority for the big powers, whose aim is the extermination of the Arab countries, one by one. The Arab countries are on the list of these priorities—part of the plan of the new colonial wave aimed at the entire Arab nation—a matter which the Arab peoples can no longer bear or accept.

Blockade Seen Preventing Religious Rites

LD2203120192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 22 March (JANA)— The JANA Arab affairs political editor has pointed out the serious consequences of a hasty decision to impose an air blockade on Libya—particularly during the holy month, the month of religious observances and visits between Muslims all over the world, especially for the performance of minor pilgrimages. He asserts that such an unjust decision, if made, will prevent Muslims from performing their religious rites, and make it more difficult for them to travel to perform minor pilgrimages as well as their return to their homeland and families. He points out that there are now hundreds of thousands of Muslims who are about to perform minor pilgrimages during this holy month, which God has designated for religious observances, and during which the Koran was revealed.

The JANA Arab affairs editor goes on to say: One cannot explain the will and the haste to make such a resolution, except as a sign of contempt toward Muslims, their feelings, and their religious rites. It may also be an attempt by the British Government, which is in its death throes, and might lose power in the next two weeks, to resuscitate itself through such a hasty action, which is detrimental to the interests of Muslims.

The editor points out that the outcome which enables us to understand such practices does not go beyond the fact that we Muslims are being prepared to be the scapegoats of their elections, and the offering for the policies of their partisan struggle—anytime, anywhere.

We should reject this nevertheless, because what is being implemented today against Libya will surely be applied tomorrow to each Arab country from from the Ocean to the Gulf, as the neo-nation of colonialists is targeting not only Libya, but also the Arab and Islamic nations.

The JANA Arab affairs editor warned Arabs and Muslims that it has become clear now that the Arab nation is destined to always be ready for rapacity, and the victim of any electioneering drama being played out in the United States, Britain, France ,or any other Western country in which a party is trying to gain power on the interest of this nation, show more contempt for it, and treat it in an inhuman manner.

Egyptian, Syrian 'Pan-Arab Stance' Praised

LD2103180792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA)—The GPC Secretariat in the Great Jamahiriyah hails the courageous pan-Arab stance of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad made during their meeting in Cairo, in which they stressed their standing and solidarity with the Arab people in Libya.

JANA's political editor commented upon the two presidents' stance, saying that it clearly stresses the strong concern of Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad for the security and safety of the Arab nation, and their definite rejection of all the hegemonous and humiliating attempts aimed at the Arab nation and its sons.

The editor adds that the Arab people in Libya highly appreciate the courageous stances of the two presidents, especially these days, when the powers in control of the Security Council are trying to bring about unjust resolutions against Libya. He says that the pan-Arab stances of the two presidents clearly reflect the Arab stance, which must be publicized and adopted in facing up to the repeated challenges aimed at Arab existence.

He says that by standing with their Arab people in Libya and Iraq, Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad truly express the one Arab feeling, which rejects the humiliation and submission of the Arab homeland.

JANA's political editor concludes by saying that the unified Egyptian-Syrian stance regarding support and solidarity with the Arab people in Libya, in the face of the new colonial campaign, is a stance taken with courage, while keeping in mind the huge dimension of Egypt and Syria's pan-Arab responsibility toward the defense and protection of the Arab homeland.

Mauritania

President Holds Talks With Libya's al-Humaydi

LD2103181992 Tripoli JANA in English 1629 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Nouakchott, al-Rabi' [March] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Mauritanian Head of State Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya last night received Major al-Khuwaydi al-Humaydi who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday afternoon.

Present at the meeting were the Mauritanian minister in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Military National Salvation Committee Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane and the charge d'affairs of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Nouakchott.

Morocco

King Hassan Confers With Libya's al-Humaydi

LD2003141292 Rabat MAP in English 1212 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Rabat, March 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II held here Thursday two rounds of talks with Commandant Khuwayldi al-Humaydi.

Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and envoy of Libyan president [title as received] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In a statement upon arrival here earlier Thursday, Commandant al-Humaydi said he would convey King Hassan II a message from the Libyan leader.

The Libyan official voiced hope that the brotherly Libyan-Moroccan cooperation relations be further bolstered and consequently contribute to the construction of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Sudan

Military Documents Reveal Excesses, Arms Deals

PM1803154392 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 17 Mar 92 p 5

[Ahmad al-Qurashi report: "Al-Turabism Expanded Militarily to Tehran and Baghdad and Fundamentalistically to Egypt and Africa"]

[Excerpts] London—A serious document published exclusively by SAWT AL-KUWAYT has revealed important information about the minutes of meetings of the Sudanese Military Council and the 40-member council subordinate to it, and about reports prepared by the Sudanese intelligence organs.

Informed Sudanese sources said that the dismissal of Military Council member Martin Malwal, who is known for his friendship with regime head 'Umar al-Bashir, was implemented under a decision by the 40-member council which is comprised of officers belonging to the [National] Islamic Front. This was done after the council received reports confirming that Malwal had leaked information to the Sudanese opposition.

According to what sources revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT from Khartoum, al-Bashir defended Malwal and pointed that the report the security authorities had received contained information that concerned Malwal himself. But the 40-member council introduced a letter carrying Malwal's signature in which he explained to "a friend abroad" the truth about the five vehicles he brought into the country with customs exemptions—an incident referred to in the document.

And during Al-Bashir's hesitation to make a decision Sudanese television last week announced Malwal's dismissal for corruption. The decision to dismiss him was preceded by a "confused" liquidation campaign in military intelligence and security organs. According to security sources it included some Islamic Front members.

The document, which seems to have been written last February, pointed to the exploitation by Sudanese Military Council members and al-Turabi [Islamic] Front leaders of their powers for their own personal financial gain.

The document also carried details of the visit to Sudan by the Iraqi chief of staff and the agreements this produced, especially with regard to Iraqi aid to Sudan.

The document revealed the talks between a delegation from the military government and the leadership of the breakaway wing of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement.

The document also explained the military situation in southern and west Sudan.

It also revealed the complete sponsorship of fundamentalist movements in Egypt by the Sudanese military authorities and the al-Turabi Front, with the assistance of some foreign states, with a view to weakening security and stability there.

The following is the text of the document:

Incomparable corruption of Islamic Front leaders:

—'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, secretary general of the Revolution Council and chairman of the 40-member council, disposed of 80 million pounds and distributed part of this to officers and soldiers in the armed forces and Front leaders without any documentation. The rest of the sum was transferred to his own account. [passage omitted]

The Transitional National Council:

Eighty percent of the Transitional National Council members announced by the authorities belong to the National Islamic Front. The remaining 20 percent comprise party elements sympathizing with the Islamic Front, technocrats, and specialists. The security organs scrutinized them one by one and submitted the results to the Revolution Council.

Iraqi chief of staff's visit:

The Iraqi visitor sought Sudan's mediation with Iran to release the Iraqi planes and pilots present in Iran since the war. If Sudan is successful it will be given 10 of these planes. Khartoum has sent 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha to Tehran to conduct the negotiations.

Iraq agreed to supply Sudan with artillery units, ammunition, 10 helicopters, two Antonov planes, advanced assault rifles, mine-detection equipment, and aircraft training units, as well for 3,000 members of the popular defense forces to receive training from the Iraqi popular army.

Meeting with Riak Mashar (leader of the wing that broke away from the Garang movement):

A delegation from the regime headed by Ahmad al-Ridah Jabir and which included al-Fatif 'Arwah and the commander of the Malakal military zone met with Riak Mashar following preliminary contacts in al-Nasir, where the meeting was held, with a convoy of 30 trucks carrying relief supplies. [sentence as published]

Negotiations were held and the following was agreed:
—To send a force from the Sudanese Army to announce the recapture of al-Nasir.
—To coordinate a sudden offensive against Garang. And the authorities are seeking to include the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, whose vanguards have arrived, in the offensive.
—To hold a meeting with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and the chief of staff on 8 January 1992.
—The Army shall supply Riak Mashar with arms and ammunition and deposit $300,000 in his London bank account. This has already happened.
—To persuade Daniel Kut of Anyanya II [militia] to join him.

Features of the military situation in west Sudan:
—The attacking force has been divided into several groups combing various parts of the province and attacking the Army, the police, and the central reserve by relying on ambushes and surprise. The police and the central reserve have been prevented from conducting patrols except in the Army's presence in the areas of Tawilah, Hasan-3, and al-Nakhsah [place-name as published] in the Kaura Hills.

In the early hours of 1992 Kaduqli was heavily bombarded and its terrified residents were evacuated. It was stormed and 125 detained politicians were freed. Nine prison guards were killed in the attack. The bombardment included Dalami and al-Dalanj [place-name as published]. The town of Laqawah [place-name as published] was stormed. And 217 students from the Katshah Secondary School were captured and taken to an unknown destination.
—The United States openly warned against any Iranian intervention in Sudan's civil war. The news about the Revolutionary Guard forces, which will will come from al-Biqa' and Ba'labakk, spread. Then the plan was changed to bring them from inside Iran as workers building the Kusti-Juba road. They will have a camp in Sawba and another in al-Damazin. Their vanguard have already arrived.

Some facts about the military situation in the South:
—Three hundred and four soldiers from Battalion 215, which was assigned to recapture Daym Zubayr in Bahr el-Ghazal, were killed. Battalion Commander Col. Hasan al-Habli was also killed, and the survivors returned to Waw. Two charges exploded in the Waw market.
—Planes carrying arms from Zimbabwe landed at al-Buyur [place-name as published] airport. The government protested to Zimbabwe.
—Juba's residents accuse the "al-Ahwal Battalion" of killing civilians. The atmosphere is tense and the bombardment is continuing.

Islamic Movements:
—It has been agreed with Gholem Reza, the official in charge of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, to fully support Egypt's Islamic movement. Pending further details, it has been decided to donate 500,000 pounds to the Labor Party and the AL-SHA'B newspaper.

Three Islamic groups in Egypt have agreed to merge into one Islamic movement. Representatives from the Muslim Brotherhood and the al-Jihad organization came to Khartoum and signed a document to that effect in the presence of Hasan al-Turabi. Comprehensive negotiations are being conducted with the Nigerian Islamic Movement to that end. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Yahya Meets With Envoys on Libya Crisis

LD2003221592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an effort to contain this crisis and to find a peaceful solution to it on the basis of international legitimacy, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is concentrating his efforts to this end. During the past couple of days there were urgent efforts by Tunisian diplomacy, including the restricted cabinet meeting which the head of state chaired last Monday and which was devoted to examining this problem in light of the development witnessed at the UN level.

Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya yesterday met with with nine ambassadors acredited to Tunisia. He received collectively the ambassadors of Britain, France, and the United States, and then met with the ambassadors of two permanent members of the UN Security Council—Russia and China—and with the ambassadors of three nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council: Japan, Belgium, and Austria. He also met with the delegate general in Tunis of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He additionally telephoned the Jamahiriyah's secretary of the People's Committee for External Liaison.

All these talks dealt with the crisis in light of its latest developments within the framework of Tunisia's desire to find a peaceful solution to it on the basis of international legitimacy in a manner which will safeguard the interests of all parties and to enable the region to avoid the dangers of tension. We would also like to point out that within the same framework and with coordination with the representatives of the Maghreban states and Libya's neighbors, Tunisia's UN representative held contacts and carried out brief consultations. These

included his meeting with the president of the UN Security Council and his participation in a meeting held by the Arab group.

Foreign Minister Works for Solution

LD2403050992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, the Tunisian foreign minister, continues contacts and consultations in Cairo with a number of his Arab counterparts, which come within the framework of the resolution that was approved yesterday evening by the Arab League in its emergency session, and particularly within the framework that was entrusted to the committee for follow-up and contact set up by the League, which includes Tunisia among its members.

In addition to Tunisia's participation in the Arab League emergency session, Mr. Ben Yahya has, since his arrival in Cairo Saturday evening, had several meetings and discussions. In this context, the minister held, particularly (?immediately after) his arrival in the Egyptian capital, talks with his Libyan counterpart, Mr. Ibrahim al-Bishari, and met Mr. 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian foreign minister, who visited him at Tunisian Embassy in Cairo on Sunday morning.

Mr. Habib Ben Yahya also participated in a consultation and coordination meeting held by the ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union on Sunday. He also made contact with Arab delegations, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These consultations resulted in an agreement on the text of a resolution that was unanimously approved by the Arab ministers afterwards. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, Mr. Said Ben Mustapha, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry in charge of Maghreb affairs, met in Tunis with the ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and the United States together, and then successively with the ambassadors of Russia and China. These meetings covered the latest developments of the dispute between Libya and some Western states in light of the meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council.

President Addresses Nation on Independence Day

LD2003142792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1023 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the 36th anniversary of independence, at the Republican Palace in Carthage—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Ladies and gentlemen, citizens: In the life of nations and peoples, there are immortal days which are distinguished in comparison with other days by what they represent and the implications they carry, as well as the lessons they teach. The history of our country is full of such glorious days, but today has a special place as far as we are concerned, because it is the anniversary of the crowning of the national struggle for independence. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen: Thanks to this glorious day, we are indebted to the honorable and sincere men who in successive generations since the middle of the last century pledged to God to wage a jihad to protect the dear homeland against the causes of weakness and the ambitions of colonialism, to deliver the homeland from the [French] protection imposed on it, and to regain the country's dignity and independence. [passage omitted]

Since 7 November we have given a special place to education and the economy. This is indicated by the results we have achieved so far, and is clearly interpreted by the objectives of the new economic and social plan. Out of our belief in the duty of the participation of every Tunisian in the realization of this objective, and in order to strengthen the climate of confidence and national conciliation which we have worked to spread among all the strata of the society, we have decided to extend the National Pact to include the Organization of Education and the Family, the Press Association, the Tunisian Writers Federation, the Society for the Defense of the Consumer, the General Federation of Youth, and a student representative. We propose that 9 January, the date on which the Pact Committee will hold its first session, be called Pact Day, similar to all other national days in other fields; all signatories of the National Pact shall meet on that day. The National Pact is a cultural asset and one of the main foundations of the democratic construction which is supported by a number of principles and values. These were unanimously adopted by Tunisians, who regarded them as the basis for establishing the new society. We have therefore decided to substitute a higher authority for the Pact Higher Council. This shall consist of the political parties which are legally recognized, as well as the four national organizations. The authority shall be chaired by the prime minister. One of the tasks of this new authority is to honor the principles and aims of the National Pact, and to study the issues which the president of the republic shall refer to it. The authority may propose to its chairman that certain important issues be included on the agenda of its three annual meetings, or of any meeting required by necessity. The authority can also be summoned to listen to statements by the government on current issues. The authority's report summing up its work shall be submitted to the president of the republic. The tasks of this authority will come to an end when the next ordinary legislative elections are held.

Ladies and gentlemen: By this action we aim to strengthen further multiplicity and participation, and bolster the bases of democratic construction. We believe, as I have previously said, that the wealth of the country depends on the richness of mind of its sons. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Receives Libyan Official al-Qa'ud

JN2103211692 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Manama, 21 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Libyan President [title as received] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with consultations between the two fraternal countries, the latest developments in Libya's problem with Western countries, and issues of mutual concern.

The message was delivered by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Agriculture Reform and Land Reclamation, when his highness the amir received him here tonight.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Ahmad Qasim, and Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant interior under secretary for immigration and passport affairs.

[Manama WAKH in Arabic at 2050 GMT on 21 March reports that the Libyan official "left Manama for Doha tonight at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of the region."]

Kuwait

Council Urges UN Pressure on Iraq Over Detainees

LD2203172492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1328 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 March, KUNA—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today called on the Security Council to continue its efforts and to intensify its pressure on the Iraqi regime to force it to implement all the UN resolutions related to the Kuwaiti cause, the foremost of which is the total and immediate release of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraqi camps. This call was made during the weekly session held by the Council under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers reviewed political issues and acquainted itself with a number of political reports concerning the latest regional developments in the aftermath of the Iraqi regime's submission to the Security Council resolutions on scrapping weapons of mass destruction.

Al-'Uthman [minister in charge of cabinet affairs] pointed out that the Council expressed the hope that the Security Council will continue its tireless efforts by intensifying pressures through various means on the Iraqi regime to force it to implement the UN resolutions related to the Kuwaiti cause, the foremost of which are the total and immediate release of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraqi camps, to return them safely to their families and homeland, to make the borders official, to pay fair compensation for the damage inflicted on Kuwait, and to return stolen Kuwaiti property.

Oman

Sultan Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

JN2303161692 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God protect him, has received a letter from his brother President [title as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received the letter when he received 'Abd-al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture Reform and Land Reclamation and the Libyan president's envoy, at his office today. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, as well as a number of issues of mutual interest. Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Zahir al-Hinayi, minister of agriculture and fisheries, attended the meeting.

'Abd-al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture Reform and Land Reclamation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left the country this afternoon following a short visit to the Sultanate. Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Zahir al-Hinayi, minister of agriculture and fisheries, saw him off.

Qatar

Amir Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy

JN2203160792 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Doha, March 22 (GNA)—The Amir of Qatar H.H. [His Highness] Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a message from Libyan President [title as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Libyan Minister of Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation 'Abd-al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud conveyed the message during an audience with H.H. the amir here today.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the message dealt with the latest developments of the dispute between Libya and a number of Western states in addition to a set of other issues of mutual concern.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets With Libya's al-Durdah

LD1903225192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, has received a message from His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president [title as received] of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Mr. Abu-Zayd 'Umar al-Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee, when the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God support him, received him at his office at al- Yamamah Palace today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

JN2203203992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from Libyan President [title as received] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the developments in the crisis between Libya and a number of Western countries, within consultations between the two countries. The message also pertains to issues of mutual concern.

The message was delivered by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Agriculture Reform and Land Reclamation, when his highness received him this evening.

Republic of Yemen

President Holds Talks With Libyan Envoy al-Qa'ud

JN2003174992 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture Reform and Land Reclamation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Libyan official conveyed to the brother president a letter from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution, concerning the threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and issues of concern to the two fraternal countries. The letter also touches on the consultations regarding the convening of an extraordinary session of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministers level to discuss the threats against Libya.

The brother president asked the Libyan official to convey a message in reply to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The meeting was attended by brothers Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani; Sadiq Amin Abu-Ras, minister of agriculture and water resources; and [name indistinct], secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in our country.

[In a separate report later in the same newscast, Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 20 March reports the Libyan official's departure after conveying a letter from al-Qadhdhafi to President Salih.]

Syria, Iran, Iraq Reportedly Trade on Borders

NC2303151692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Informed sources in Nicosia affirmed today that Syria has cautiously and gradually started opening its borders with Iraq to trade traffic despite the international economic boycott imposed on our people in Iraq as a result of the tyrant's crimes and aggressive policy.

The sources did not, however, mention whether Syria, a member of the antityrant alliance during the Gulf war, is violating the boycott imposed on Iraq by the United Nations since the tyrant's occupation of Kuwait. They said that the two border points of al-Walid and Abu Kamal in eastern Syria were recently opened up for the shipment of goods after Jordan and Turkey took measures to stop their trade with the defeated regime.

It is worth noting here that Iraqi-Syrian borders have been closed since 1980. They were only opened on a temporary basis during the Gulf war to evacuate foreign nationals from Iraq during 1990 and 1991, in addition to Kurds escaping the oppression of the tyrant's forces.

The sources did not clarify whether Syria had informed the UN sanctions committee of this trade traffic.

An economic bulletin in Nicosia affirmed today that Iranian merchants have bought industrial equipment from northern Iraq in return for hard currency and raw materials. It added that Iran opened its borders with northern Iraq to provide the Kurdish regions, which have been under siege by the tyrant's forces since October, with fuel and food.

Saddam, Experts Discuss Primary Materials Output

JN2303174492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husaym met today with a number of scientists, specialists, and researchers to continue discussions on manufacturing some primary materials necessary for civilian life. he meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's adviser.

Saddam Signs Decrees Awarding Medals to Soldiers

JN1703194692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 92

["Texts" of "presidential decrees awarding medals to a number of fighter commanders and officers from various corps and from the military and media escort of the president of the Republic"; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters in protecting the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. The fighters listed below shall be granted the Medal of Valor:
Staff Lieutenant General 'Ala'-al-Din Kazim Hammad.
Staff Lt. Gen. Yunus Muhammad al-Dhir.
Staff Major Gen. Najm-al-Din 'Abdallah Muhammad.
Staff Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Jabbar Ni'mah al-Hadithi.
Staff Brigadier Gen. Ahmad Hammad Hakim.
Staff Brig. Gen. 'Amir Shiya' 'Abdallah.
Staff Brig. Gen. 'Ali Salman Qitab.
Brig. Gen. Anis 'Abd-al-Karim 'Umran.
Colonel 'Abd-al-Ilah Hamid Majid.
Staff Col. Nayif Sattar 'Awwad.
Staff Col. Salim Hamid Irdayyid.
Staff Col. Husayn Karim Shukr Mahmud.
Col. Taha 'Abd-al-Hafiz Taha.
Staff Col. 'Asi Hasan Nayif.
Col. Ma'n Mahir Jasim.
Lt. Col. Ahmad Taha 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Rifa'i.
Maj. 'Udayy Mustafa 'Abdallah.

2. Each of the following fighters shall be granted two Medals of Valor.
Staff Pilot Maj. Gen. 'Adnan Dahham Khalaf.
Staff Pilot Maj. Gen. Muhammad Nabil Ahmad Ayyub.
Staff Pilot Maj. Gen. 'Alwan Hassun al-'Ubusi.
Staff Pilot Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad Tu'mah.
Staff Pilot Brig. Gen. Sa'd Ahmad Naji.
Pilot Brig. Gen. Khalid 'Abd-al-Jabbar Husayn.
Staff Brig. Gen. Mahdi Salih Fathi.
Navigator Brig. Gen. 'Adil Kamil 'Inad.
Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abdallah Rashid Hassun.
Staff Brig. Gen. 'Adnan Zaydan Khalaf.
Brig. Gen. Mahmud Jamil Isma'il.
Brig. Gen. Muthanna Hamdi Dhunnun Qasim.
Staff Brig. Gen. Tariq 'Umar 'Ali.
Brig. Gen. Dr. Mu'ayyad Hamid Majid.
Brig. Gen. Ramadan Husyn Ahmad Mustafa.
Staff Col. Faruq Rida 'Ali.
Staff Pilot Col. Iyad Ibrahim Bawi.
Staff Pilot Col. Ahmad Rashid Fitnah al-Ma'adidi.
Col. Salih Lazim Hasan 'Alwan.
Col. Engineer Sa'd 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ramadan.
Staff Col. 'Ali Husayn Suhayl.
Staff Col. Muhammad Rida Muhammad Khalid.
Col. Isma'il Ibrahim Muhammad.
Col. Mahir Mahmud Hilmi.
Col. Mu'ayyad Ahmad Musa.
Staff Lt. Col. Faruq Sahl Farhan.
Lt. Col. Hamid Khalaf Mahmud.
Lt. Col. Dr. Sabah 'Abd-al-Mahdi al-Hilali.
Staff Lt. Col. Faris 'Abbas Malallah.
Maj. Dr. Haqqi Isma'il Ibrahim.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters in protecting the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. Fighters Maj. 'Abdallah Rashid Khalil and Captain Salih Mahmud Najm shall be granted two Medals of Valor.

2. The following fighters shall be granted one Medal of Valor.
1st Lt. Muhammad Rajab Haddushi.
1st Lt. Hashim 'Ali Yusuf.
1st Lt. 'Amir Yasin Mahmud.
1st Lt. Sami Damin Samir.
1st Lt. Talal 'Abdallah 'Abd.
1st Lt. Salam Karim Mahmud.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by the following fighters in protecting the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. The following fighters shall be granted one Medal of Valor:
Muzahim Ahmad Mansur.
Dhiyab Mahdi (?Ghatir).
Ibrahim Hasan Mahal.
Nasir Subhi Ahmad.
'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il 'Umar.
Muhyi Husayn 'Ali.
'Abd-al-Salam Yusuf Muhammad.
Jamal Khattab al-Ja'fari.
Bari 'Ajaj Farhan.
Salih Jasim 'Arab.
'Adnan Dayyaf Marmi.
Bashir Hamzah Tawfiq.
'Adil 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur.

2. Fighter 'Udayy 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur shall be granted two Medals of Valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] President of the Republic Saddam Husayn

UN Weapons Team Views Remains of Scud Missiles

NC2803190892 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, March 23 (AFP)—The head of a UN weapons team on Monday described Iraqi cooperation here as "businesslike and correct" and said his colleagues had viewed remains of Scud missiles destroyed by Iraq.

Derek Boothby, whose 35-member team arrived Saturday, told journalists the inspectors had observed the remains of Scud components at three sites and that wreckage from additional missiles was being dug up. "When the excavation is completed we will be able to look at the missile wreckage itself," he said, without disclosing the number destroyed nor their location.

Boothby added that Iraqi officials said the missiles had been neutralized between June and September without United Nations supervision. Later in the week, he said, his team hoped to supervise the destruction of equipment used to manufacture the ground-to-ground Scuds, which Iraq had fired against Israel and Saudi Arabia in the Gulf war.

Asked about his dealings with Iraqi authorities, Boothby replied: "Our relationship has been businesslike and correct. We are getting done the things we want to get done."

United Nations experts have paid regular visits to Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 to oversee the elimination of Baghdad's arsenal of ballistic and other weapons of mass destruction.

Western leaders have complained that Iraq has not been cooperating with the effort and have made no secret of their readiness to use force if Baghdad fails to comply.

In New York, a UN official said Friday that Iraq had pledged to destroy its ballistic missiles and had given the United Nations "important new information" on its Scud program.

The assurance came in a letter delivered Thursday by Iraqi UN Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, said Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN commission charged with partially disarming Iraq.

Paper Views UN 'Satisfaction' on Iraqi Message

JN2303155092 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Mar 92 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] New York—Satisfaction has prevailed at UN Headquarters following a recent Iraqi message, the contents of which were partly disclosed by Rolf Ekeus, head of the special commission, at a news conference at UN Headquarters at noon on Friday, 20 March.

He said: I am happy and optimistic about the contents of the letter which has been addressed to me personally by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs.

He reiterated that the message was substantive, good, and praiseworthy.

International Official Notes Cooperation on Missiles

JN2303161192 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Mar 92 p 1

["Monitored" by AL-THAWRAH]

[Text] Michel Diskranik [name as published], head of the international team specializing in destroying missiles, has admitted that Iraq has been cooperative with his team in helping to carry out his mission, which resulted in the destruction of 500 missiles.

The head of the international team said that his team completed its mission with marked cooperation from the competent Iraqi authorities.

Ahmad Husayn Views Arab League Session Efforts

JN2303191992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn returned to Baghdad this evening after participating in the extraordinary Arab League Council meeting in Cairo. The meeting was convened at Libya's request to discuss the threats of economic and military sanctions against it by the United States and its allies.

The foreign minister told INA that he explained Iraq's position and its full support for and solidarity with Libya. He said that Iraq called on the conferees to reject all the threats or punitive measures which the United States intends to pass through the UN Security Council.

He said that Iraq also emphasized the importance of solidarity with fraternal Libya to confront the U.S.-Zionist conspiratorial scheme which made the strongest Arab country its first target and which will not stop as long as the current Arab disintegration continues.

The minister stated that during the meeting he explained how Iraq had repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that the sinful aggression and the unjust blockade against Iraq are nothing but an episode of the imperialist scheme against the Arab nation—a scheme aimed at undermining the nation's capabilities in the face of the Zionist enemy which usurps Arab lands, and at preventing the nation's progress and development.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn said that the defeatist positions taken by some Arab countries facilitated the aggression against Iraq and the destruction of the country's infrastructure and power, which is a power for all Arabs. These same countries, he added, are trying to collude with foreigners against the other countries of the Arab nation. He explained that these countries tried to pursue this policy during the Arab League meeting but, he added, we confronted them and foiled their designs.

The minister noted that the Iraqi delegation made effective contributions to the proposed resolutions adopted by the meeting, especially those which emphasized the need to take a clear stand in supporting and backing Libya in its confrontation with the measures which may be taken against it through unjust and tendentious UN Security Council resolutions.

Concluding his statement to INA, the foreign minister said that he explained to the Arab foreign ministers and to the heads of the delegations that when they remained silent on the attack against Iraq we knew that the series of conspiracies would not stop. We knew that the attacks had begun and would not stop. If Libya is chosen this time other countries will later be attacked to force them to surrender to the U.S.-Zionist scheme. [passage omitted]

Regime Beheads 10 Officers for Military Failures

NC2303214392 Paris AFP in English 2053 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, March 23 (AFP)—Ten Iraqi officers were beheaded last week after the Army failed to take Kurdish positions in northern Iraq, an Iraqi opposition movement charged here Monday.

The Shiite Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement here that "following the failure of an attack carried out by the Iraqi Army against positions taken earlier by (Kurdish) fighters near Shahwan [place-name as received], al-Sulaymaniyah and Karkuk, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali-Hasan al-Majid ordered the execution of 10 officers held responsible for the defeat."

The statement said that after the executions, the bodies of the officers had been "dressed in Kurdish civilian clothes and thrown onto the streets of Kurdistan in order to conceal the crime and intimidate the Kurdish population".

It provided neither the names nor the ranks of the alleged victims.

Defense Minister Visits 1st, 5th Army Corps

JN1903200392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1854 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, visited the operational sector of the 1st and 5th Army Corps over the past four days.

During his visit to the command of the al-Rashid forces, the minister met with the commander of the corps, its staff officers, and commanders of divisions, formations, classes, services, and units.

The defense minister listened to a briefing by the corps commander concerning cooperation and coordination between military units and the party organs in the governorate in a manner that enhances combat capabilities and defense arrangements of our heroic units to bury any attempt by the scoundrel saboteurs, who are slaves to the foreigners.

During the briefing the defense minister gave instructions to develop joint action and to bolster the strong defenses. His excellency praised the heroic personnel of the al-Rashid forces and the effective party organization in al-Ta'mim Governorate, as well as their struggling role in defending Iraq's pure land. Those in attendance pledged to President Saddam Husayn they would remain a brandished sword in his hands in defense of every inch of our steadfast Iraq.

The RCC member and defense minister also visited the 5th Corps' operational sector. He met with the corps commander, staff officers, and commanders of divisions, formations, classes, services, and units.

He reviewed with them the military situation in the corps and praised the high preparedness of the zealous 'Ammuriyah forces to defend the soil of the beloved homeland against all plotters and heretical traitors.

The defense minister also chaired a meeting held at the Ninawa Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; the secretaries of the Ninawa, al-Mawsil, Dahuk, Irbil, and 'Ammuriyah military branches; the corps commander, division commanders, and the comrade people's representatives in the governorate attended the meeting.

The commander of the 5th Corps gave a briefing in which he explained how solid the defenses are and the current coordination with the governorate's party organs to ensure closed ranks and to enhance the combat capabilities of the corps units.

The defense minister gave instructions and made remarks to improve performance so as to achieve the best methods to oppose the attempts of evil enemies.

Participants in the meeting renewed their pledge to President Saddam Husayn to remain loyal soldiers behind the banner of God is Great until God permits a soon to come and final victory over our heretical enemies and the vindictive villains.

Trade Minister Says Food Reaching North

JN1903185792 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 18 Mar 92 p 2

[Excerpt] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asserted that the state is fully responsible for providing food to the sons of the Autonomous Region, just like other governorates in Iraq, as part of its national responsibility toward the people.

Chairing a seminar held by the Trade Ministry yesterday with the participation of the heads of trade branches in Baghdad and the governorates, including the Autonomous Region, the trade minister said that there is a qualitative and quantitative balance when providing foodstuffs to the region on the basis of ration cards.

At the seminar it was agreed that 31 March will be the deadline for citizens who have not yet submitted their identification cards to do so and obtain their ration cards.

The conferees also discussed the daily report of food prices on the market, which shows that prices in the northern region have fallen compared to markets in Baghdad Governorate. This rebuts the claims of hostile trumpets that the sons of the northern region are suffering from a food blockade. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Autonomous Region Official Visits Dahuk

JN1703143692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1316 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Dahuk, northern Iraq, 17 Mar (INA)—Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, has emphasized that the steadfastness of Iraq, with its Arabs and Kurds, and their faithful continuation of the construction and reconstruction march have frightened the enemy and incited their hatred of the victorious Iraqi march.

During a visit to Dahuk Governorate, northern Iraq, al-Barzanji said that the honorable national role and the faith in the principles of the 17-30 July Revolution demand that all of us stop the aggressors' designs and their unjust economic siege.

At his meeting with the heads of services and administrative departments in the governorate, the chairman of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Executive Council emphasized the need to accelerate efforts to provide the best services to citizens, simplify procedures, and provide the criteria for completing service, health, and educational projects.

Dahuk's inhabitants renewed their pledge of love and allegiance to the leader of Iraq's march President Saddam Husayn and their readiness to defend great Iraq.

Minister Notes Electricity, Industrial Priorities

JN1903202892 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 15 Mar 92 p 4

[Interview with 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, by 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [BABIL] With regard to the offensive being launched to rebuild power installations, can we say that everything of this type has now been

rebuilt? Can we reassure Iraqis that next summer will be cool and not hot like last year?

[Al-Sa'di] It is regrettable that the Iraqi citizen does not rationalize his consumption of electricity. He might think of rationalization when he sees a television ad on the issue; it might make him feel guilty for a while. But after a while he forgets about the whole thing. He might feel secure at home when he turns on all the lights in his garden and other parts of his house. We are responsible for this because the roads are dark. But it should be said that household power use has increased unreasonably when compared to the consumption registered prior to the start of the aggression. Electricity consumption has increased in Baghdad and al-Basrah Governorates, as well as in the northern governorates. Before the aggression Dahuk required 32 megawatts of power, but right now it requires 65-70 megawatts. The consumption rate has also increased in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah. The same can be said about power consumption in al-Basrah Governorate, whose power use has risen abnormally. Factories there have continued to use half of the power that they used to use in the past. Peak household power consumption has exceeded the peaks registered prior to the start of the aggression. It is true that we have rebuilt power installations, but the postaggression peak has reached unprecedented levels. For example, in the past peak consumption totaled 2,500-2,600 megawatts. In contrast, the current peak power consumption has reached 4,000 megawatts. We have surplus power during much of the daylight hours, but within the span of two or three specific hours we have power shortages. When such shortages become uncontrollable accidents occur, the repair of which takes longer than the actual power outages. We are performing maintenance on 22 stations this month, which is appropriate for maintenance operations, for we are preparing for summer. However, we are encountering difficulties and believe that citizens are not responding favorably to calls urging them to reduce their power consumption. Additional stations will be installed by the end of this month to improve power wattage. The emergency operations room will continue to operate next summer. What we need, however, is the citizens' awareness and a rationalization effort by them. To ease pressure on low-income families the Council of Ministers has decided to reduce the price of a power unit from 8 fils to 5 fils in cities and capital cities of governorates, and from 5 fils to 3 fils in villages and rural areas to reduce consumption to 360 kilowatts. What happened is that consumption by people who use a limited amount of power has increased and that those with higher consumption rates have not been affected, despite the fact that the increase in their power bills has reached 5 fils per unit. This is because their economic status allows them to maintain their consumption patterns. The end result is that we lose financially and also that consumption has increased. The pricing policy sometimes plays a role in the rationalization process because this policy is meant to promote the interests of low-income persons. We have reduced charges for this category of people. We are currently examining the issue and are following it closely. [passage omitted]

[BABIL] As for the future, what about your priorities? What are the types of production and consumer commodities that will be given priority, especially because the blockade will be lifted thanks to the resolve of Iraqis and that of the leader, God willing? I am talking about the production commodities that will achieve self-sufficiency for citizens, the commodities that they need. What are your plans and future prospects in this regard?

[Al-Sa'di] The ministry is responsible for vital sectors other than electricity. The reference here is basically to the industrial sector, which we view as a driving force activating large economic sectors. Besides, the industrial sector employs a huge amount of people. The field of activity of this sector is wide and extensive in all spheres. We will focus on increasing construction industries to provide construction materials and ensure the continuation of the construction effort. Undoubtedly our prime concern will remain the food and pharmaceutical industries.

At present the medicine plant and the State Enterprise for Medicines are working at 30 percent of their original production capacities. We are doing our utmost to increase this percentage. In the past we produced a large percentage of the medicines that we used annually, but our capabilities in this regard have suffered a setback due to the blockade. Sometimes the production of medicines becomes contingent on packaging materials such as bottles, eye droppers, cellophane paper, and the paper used for encasing capsules and ampoules, etc. The unavailability of glass bottles is also one of the obstacles encountered in this regard. When you request the purchase of such materials they say that this material is harmful. You must buy manufactured medicines, they add. That is, they want us to spend our frozen assets or the financial assets that we have on finished products rather than spend them on imports of raw materials. [passage omitted]

We have a big problem concerning vegetable oils. Iraq's consumption of vegetable oils, detergents, and shaving creams requires the investment of $90-100 million annually, or almost $10 million per month. We are preoccupied with coping with the vegetable oil problem. Weekly reports on the issue are studied. We are attempting to earmark the amounts required for the production of vegetable oils.

Medicines, food supplies, construction industries, and electricity are our priorities. As for other things, they come after these. We have stepped up our efforts to produce fertilizers so that we can cope with the upcoming agricultural season.

Ba'th Military Wing Holds 'Democratic' Elections

JN1803155392 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 16 Mar 92 pp 1, 7

[By 'Aqil 'Abbas]

[Excerpt] Comrade Kamil Yasin Rashid, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and deputy secretary of the Military Office, has affirmed that party strugglers in the military organization have elected their party leaders in the broadest and first democratic election by the military organization in its glorious history.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QADISIYAH Comrade Rashid affirmed that in following the directives of Comrade leader Saddam Husayn—may God preserve him—the party's regional secretary, and the secretary of the Military Office, elections were held throughout the country over the past days to elect leaders of the military organization's party groups and sections. He said that the party strugglers have chosen their party leaders in a direct, free democratic election and that these elections were held in an impressive democratic atmosphere through which the strugglers of the military organization expressed their awareness and genuine affiliation with our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [passage omitted]

Writer Addresses People on Threats Facing Nation

JN1803153992 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 16 Mar 92 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Direct Talk to People"]

[Excerpts] O Iraqis, you have achieved a great deal on the field of honor and in pride and dignity. Only a short distance remains for you to reach the finish. The economic siege has become more of a burden on those who impose it than on you.

The just questions of right which search for truth are surrounding the sinful ones from all corners. They have been forced to expose many of their intentions at a time when they wanted the subject of Kuwait to be a Trojan horse, full of disasters and all kinds of calamities, which infiltrates your country.

They thought that the aggression's reality and its motives would not be exposed before you disintegrated and your existence became something of the past. They thought that when things became clear Iraq would have vanished or that it would have become a group of quarreling ministates, sects, and gangs busy smashing one another. Then they would not occupy themselves with the question: Why did the war break out?

Even if some Iraqis had had the chance to ask, what would be the use of knowing after it is too late? [passage omitted]

Because they know that more time means more failure, these days they have raised their voices with threats and intimidation. They have started roaming the seas and making threats with their navies and aircraft. They stirred their agents in the region, but they admit that time is up and that if a year ago they concealed their aggression and intentions with the subject of Kuwait, today they have no cover. They are going to stand naked to the world. They will be your enemies in open words and deed. So, what are you going to do?

Your heroism will be greater than ever. Your steadfastness will be higher than ever. Your house's yard will be purer and cleaner than ever.

Your enemies will be in a lower position and less capable. They will have an uglier face than ever. You will remain, and they will go. This is the meaning of victory, all victory.

Talk Says al-Asad Weakens Arab Strength

JN1603184992 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Hafiz al-Asad, head of the regime in Damascus, has said that the United States is seeking to disarm the Arabs and strengthen the Zionist enemy to force the Arabs to surrender. Had this statement been made by someone other than Hafiz al-Asad it would have required no reaction because the statement is true and the conclusion is logical and correct, one known near and far in the Arab homeland, and indeed in the entire world.

But it is a source of ridicule and laughter that these words should be uttered by Hafiz al-Asad, simply because he personally worked and helped to destroy the Arab force, and he boasted about it. He fought the Palestinian revolution, he stripped the Palestinian organizations of their weapons in Lebanon, and he destroyed the Lebanese nationalist forces.

This is not the main point, however. What we are getting at is Hafiz al-Asad's act against the most powerful Arab force, a force that enabled the Arabs to achieve not only a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy but also a strategic superiority over the Zionist enemy—we mean the power of brave Arab Iraq.

Hafiz al-Asad sent the Syrian Arab Army to Hafar al-Batin to work under the leadership of the U.S. military command, thereby joining forces with Zionism, old colonialists, and all ruler agents, and thus contributing in practice to the destruction of the Arab power—that is, to force the Arabs to surrender.

The question is: Why did Hafiz al-Asad say what he said? Is it because he wanted people to say that he did not mean what happened, or because he wanted them to say that he did not know the true intentions of the Zionists? If you know, then it is a problem, and if you do not know, then it is a greater problem. [Arab saying] But Hafiz al-Asad does not know because essentially he is not the master of Syria's political decisions. He is only an executive conspiratorial tool in the hands of his masters in Washington and Tel Aviv. The Arab nation will never

forgive him for his heinous crime against it and against its most sacred causes in Palestine, Iraq, and Syria itself.

Column Criticizes al-Asad Actions

JN1903194492 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 Mar 92 p 7

["Reflections" column by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja']

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Discovery?

On Thursday, 12 March 1992, Hafiz al-Asad addressed (his people's council) after gathering several hundred mercenaries outside it—several hundred according to Western news agency estimates, not our own. What did Hafiz al-Asad say?

Hafiz al-Asad said that he has (discovered) the master conspiracy: Everything that has been taking place over the past year is an attempt by the United States to deprive the Arabs of their weapons and to force them to surrender to the (Israeli) enemy.

Oh, what a discovery!

We tell Hafiz al-Asad: Your discovery is astonishing, although your announcement of it has come only 30 years too late!!!

This is not the crux of the issue. What is important is that this very sound statement stigmatized al-Asad with treason because Hafiz al-Asad practically helped the United States harm the basic power of the Arabs so that he can later justify his panting after Bush and his dragging others to the table of (capitulation).

What can we say about the one who (knows) that he is running to hell and even boasts about it!?

What does Hafiz al-Asad mean to say with this theatrical announcement? Does he want to say he has (discovered) the big secret? Does he want to say that he did not know!? Does he want to say that they deceived him when he hastened to send Syrian Arab forces to fight the glorious Iraqis under the command of the Zionized Jews and the Zionized non-Jews?

We could have believed al-Asad's talk about Arab solidarity and joint Arab action had he not intentionally and with open eyes chosen the trench of the Americans and the Zionists. Does he imagine that the nation has forgotten what he has been doing to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement since 1975? Hafiz al-Asad is not only a traitor, he is very stupid as well because he has forgotten that the (Mother of Battles) separated the colors, making it impossible for any person to mix them again and confuse the trenches.

One recalls the following popular Egyptian proverb: When you speak, I admire you, but when you act I wonder about your acts.

A Word of Truth:

The U.S. CNN television network failed to have His Majesty King Husayn pass a negative judgment when it tried to make him agree, in the heart of Washington, that the results of the aggression constituted a (victory) for Bush. King Husayn's reply silenced them. The future will clarify who is the victor.

* Regime Pursues Dual Policy on Kurds, Shiites

92P40142A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A conference called by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry for Iraq's ambassadors accredited to some Western and foreign countries ended in Baghdad a few days ago. The participants discussed the foreign impediments imposed on Iraq and evaluated the developments that emerged from the Gulf war and the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces. They also discussed the possibility of shortening the duration of the blockade imposed on Iraq by the international community.

Sources close to the ruling regime said that this conference held in Baghdad is called every year by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry but because of war conditions and the ensuing confusion and collapse of the Iraqi institutions after the military defeat that befell the Iraqi Army, and the political defeat that befell the regime of President Saddam Husayn, it was not held last year.

These sources indicated that the Iraqi president participated in one of the conference meetings, which was held in a Republican Guard barracks in Baghdad amid intense and painstaking security arrangements. As usual he gave a detailed talk about the circumstances and developments surrounding the Gulf war. He blamed his ambassadors for failing to uphold the standards of the "Mother of Battles" and for their inability to convey the truth about the position of their government to the concerned countries and to the forces and parties in power within or outside the regimes in the countries where they serve.

According to these sources the conferees' discussion was based mainly on the likelihood of an anticipated military attack by the allied powers at the request of the Security Council if the regime of President Saddam Husayn continues to delay in carrying out UN conditions. The top item on the conferees' agenda was the problem of the blockade: how to shorten its duration and break through its strong wall.

In the Iraqi president's presence, the ambassadors reviewed a series of possibilities with regard to the anticipated military attack. They firmly concluded that it is unlikely that there would be a comprehensive attack such as the events surrounding last year's war and that the allied forces could carry out air raids using Stealth aircraft and B-52 strategic bombers against specific targets such as nuclear reactors, centers for manufacturing and storing controlled weapons of mass destruction,

some major bridges, communications centers, oil refineries, and electricity generation stations.

The current belief among influential Iraqi circles is that the Iraqi president will eventually yield to the international demands and conditions if he feels that the threat of military force is serious and not a mere maneuver and psychological pressure.

These circles affirm that the Iraqi delegation will go to New York with the proposal that Baghdad is ready to destroy all of its advanced weapons and to observe all UN conditions without exception in exchange for the relaxation of the blockade imposed on Iraq.

It is evident that the ambassadors who attended the aforementioned conference were divided into two camps: one believed that the blockade will continue until the Baghdad regime falls, and the other believed that the Saddam Husayn issue has become an election issue in the United States and Britain and that the fate of the imposed blockade, in this sense, will be determined after the elections are held in the United States and Britain.

Some of the reports from these ambassadors indicated that the difficulty of the peace process in finding a solution to the Middle East crisis is in the interest of Iraq and the survival of the Iraqi regime. These reports note that the lack of any progress on this issue will lead to embarrassment for the United States and the U.S. Administration and their loss of credibility with Arab public opinion.

In the opinion of these ambassadors the regime has shown weakness on two fronts where the opposition has demonstrated strength: the Shiite forces' front in the south and the Kurdish forces' front in the north. The conferees emphasized the need to keep these forces separate, to announce increased flexibility with the Kurds, and to use the harshest methods on the Shiite front. According to their viewpoint flexibility with the Kurds helps prevent unity among the opposition, but it is impossible to be lenient and tolerant with the southern front because it for several reasons represents the real Achilles' heel of President Saddam Husayn's regime.

It is worth mentioning here, especially after the increasing opposition activity abroad, that the Baghdad regime recently began to decrease its food aid to the south.

Some circles voice their belief that the objective is to divert the people from their daily problems and to engage their attention far from day-to-day events.

There were rumors circulating during the aforementioned conference of ambassadors that a number of ambassadors accredited to the Western and Arab countries will be replaced but that because of the increased anticipation of a military attack this has been delayed for now. The intelligence body issued criticisms just as strong as those of the diplomatic corps during the war and more recently.

Among the prominent issues in Iraq today is the recurring subject of the possible fall of Saddam Husayn or his assassination. Each night when people leave for home they expect something to happen before the next morning in this regard.

These feelings and convictions were amplified after the latest warnings from the Security Council and repeated pronouncements by U.S. President George Bush on this issue.

There have been unusual military movements around Baghdad and its environs in recent days. It is known that the Republican Guards, which have about 21 divisions, have been placed on a state of high alert and that main units have taken up their battle positions around the capital and government institutions and have recalled reserves from among certain age groups.

Government To Demand Public Apology From U.S.

TA2403091292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Israel will demand a public apology from the United States for the false accusations that it transferred a Patriot missile to China.

Israel intends to make the demand for an apology when the U.S. team investigating the Patriot batteries deployed in various parts of the country during the Gulf war completes its work.

The defense establishment has not posed any restrictions in allowing the U.S. team to check the batteries.

According to initial reports, it appears that the Americans have not found anything to verify the charges. [passage omitted]

Arens Meets Visiting U.S. Army Secretary

'Nothing To Hide' on Patriots

TA2303184592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens met today with Army Secretary Michael Stone. During the meeting, Stone said recent events had not changed the United States' basic commitment to Israel's security. The U.S. Patriot missile inspection teams continued their work today and have so far found no evidence to corroborate the accusations against Israel. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

Army Secretary Michael Stone was received with a full military ceremony this morning at the Defense Ministry. Later he met with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, and other senior officers were present at the meeting. Mr. Stone thanked the defense minister for Jerusalem's full cooperation with the U.S. teams currently in Israel to inspect the Patriot missile batteries. He added that the events of recent weeks have not affected the United States' basic commitment to Israel's security.

Defense Minister Arens said the fact that the Middle East remains an unstable and dangerous region should highlight the importance of relations between Israel and the United States in the post-cold war era. Arens added that one of the important lessons of the Gulf war was the need for the Arrow antiballistic missile system. The defense minister also commented on the arrival of the U.S. inspection team in Israel and said that Israel had agreed to host the team because it had nothing to hide. They are receiving our full cooperation, he asserted. It is time to put this affair behind us, Arens said. The minister added that there was not a grain of truth to WASHINGTON POST allegations that Israel had shown a Chinese delegation the Patriot's performance reports. Arens claimed that no Chinese delegation had ever visited the Patriot missile batteries.

Meanwhile, the members of the U.S. inspection team have completed their second day of investigations. It has been learned that the U.S. inspectors have not found any evidence to corroborate the charges that Israel had allegedly transferred a Patriot missile, or parts of it, to the PRC.

Calls Military Ties With U.S. 'Close'

TA2303185592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dani Levi outside the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on 23 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Levi] Sir, in view of the visit of the U.S. Army secretary, how would you define the state of Israeli-U.S. relations with regard to military and defense cooperation?

[Arens] Had you been present at the meeting between myself and the U.S. Army secretary, you would have realized that the ties are close and that these relations are based on trust and cooperation. Basically, this is how our relations can be described, despite the ruckus we have been hearing recently.

[Levi] Is this ruckus liable to bring about a change in the nature of relations?

[Arens] I do not think so. The American representatives, including the U.S. Army secretary, have definitely ruled that out.

[Levi] Do you believe the U.S. policy is guided by the settlement freeze issue? Do you see a possibility of Israel's modifying its approach to that issue?

[Arens] There have been quite a few disagreements on the issue of policy in the history of Israeli-U.S. relations. Throughout that history, we have always discussed the pending issues, and we occasionally argued over the most controversial issues. Those controversies, however, have never affected the basic relations between the two countries.

[Levi] Thank you.

On U.S. Ties, Operations in Lebanon

TA2403062392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens fears Israel's military industries might be dealt a blow in the wake of the leaks and publications in Washington. Minister Arens held a reception for U.S. Army Secretary Michael Stone last night and presented him with a gift: a model of the Merkava-3 tank.

which, he said, is free of U.S. technologies. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe attended the reception and spoke to the defense minister:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Sir, in view of the accusations and leaks, would you say there is currently a crisis of confidence between Israel and the United States?

[Arens] I think that people who met with the U.S. Army secretary during his visit here, who heard his speech, and who spoke to him, as I did, would be hard put to assert that there is a crisis in relations between Israel and the United States. This visit is proof that the unique relations in the security field between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Israeli Defense Ministry continue.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 24 March notes that "during the reception for the U.S. official, Arens said that although this is a trying time in the relationship between the United States and Israel, he was confident that there was such a solid foundation that nothing could shake it." In a recorded passage, Arens states: "Personal relations also have, sometimes, a very important dimension in the relationship between nations and countries, and this is why, Mr. Secretary, that I think your visit, particularly at this time, is very, very important, and I think is making a significant contribution to making sure that our relations remain on a steady and even keel, that they continue to be the very special and unique relations that we know have existed and will continue to exist between Israel and the United States."]

[Menashe] To what extent do you think these leaks will affect Israel's military industries and hinder its qualitative edge?

[Arens] I am definitely anxious about such a possibility. I hope that at the end of this unusual visit here, it will be proven that no Patriot missiles or components have been sold to a third party. When the probe is finished, it will be clear to all that these allegations and accusations were totally unfounded.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, today more than ever it is argued that the killing of al-Musawi increased terrorist activities against Israel and its diplomatic representations overseas.

[Arens] I think that people who make such an argument simply do not understand what terror and what fighting terror are all about. Terror must be fought relentlessly and without compassion, without thinking that it will not be aimed at us or that its actions are triggered by anger and rage. Terror, especially that of Hizballah, is aimed at us out of blind hatred and the wish to hurt and even destroy the State of Israel.

[Menashe] Did the killing of al-Musawi not increase their activities?

[Arens] This blind terror does what it can, whenever it can.

[Menashe] Is the identity of the perpetrators of the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires known?

[Arens] Their identity is not known for certain at this point, but I suppose it will become known.

[Menashe] What about the perpetrators of the attack in Ankara?

[Arens] We do not yet know their identity for certain either, but I suppose we will.

[Menashe] It has been reported that Israel is planning a large-scale military operation in Lebanon.

[Arens] You must not believe everything that is published. [end recording]

Ministry Denies Report on Boycott of U.S. Talks

TA2403104192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] The Finance Ministry has denied the report that Yitzhaq Moda'i banned Treasury officials from attending economic talks in Washington to protest the U.S. Administration's refusal to grant the loan guarantees. The finance minister's media adviser told our correspondent Menahem Friedman that the report is totally unfounded. She pointed out that the finance minister supports cooperation with the United States and noted that Moda'i, together with Prime Minister Shamir, recently formulated the position to be presented by the government in the economic talks with the U.S. Administration.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 24 March adds: "Interior Minister Arye Der'i has said that ministers who propose boycotting or slandering the United States are taking an irresponsible course of action which borders on the criminal. Minister Der'i called on the prime minister to take measures against those ministers and noted that anybody who thinks that blunders can be covered up by lashing out at the United States is making a mistake. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the interior minister issued this communique in response to the MA'ARIV report that Minister Moda'i banned officials in his ministry from departing for the United States to attend economic talks as a protest against the U.S. Administration's attitude toward Israel's request for loan guarantees."]

Moda'i: 'Not a Grain of Truth'

TA2403114592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Finance Ministry Yitzhaq Moda'i has denied that he decided to boycott the United States. The minister was addressing 12th grade students in Hod Hasharon's Mossinsohn High School. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports:

[Begin Moda'i recording] Only an absolute dimwit could conceive that a tiny little country like the State of Israel, which has throughout its history and tradition been dependent on the U.S. economy and tied to it with an

umbilical cord, would want to boycott the United States of America. Israel will depend on the U.S. economy in the defense, political, and economic spheres until it reaches economic independence. Even then, Israel will be dependent on the U.S. market. Other than in banner headlines in certain newspapers—which always name names; otherwise they would be worthless as headlines—there are no plans to boycott the United States. There is not a grain of truth in that entire report. [end recording]

Arens Briefs Cabinet on Talks With Cheney

TA2303124792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Briefing the cabinet on his meeting with Richard Cheney, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said he told his U.S. counterpart that the United States is indirectly selling Israeli technology, or technology acquired as a result of Israel's combat experience and introduced in U.S. jet fighters, to the Arab countries. These aircraft could be targeted at Israel, and this could have indeed been the case last year had Iraqi President Saddam Husayn decided to attack Israel instead of Kuwait. There is no doubt that the Persian Gulf countries, which are equipped with modern U.S. aircraft, would have sided with Iraq in its war against Israel, Arens said.

Arens quoted Cheney as saying that those who have been U.S. allies in the past are more important to U.S. interests now, in the era following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and that the United States clearly distinguishes between those Arab countries that pursue a belligerent approach toward Israel and those that have undertaken to participate in the peace process. Arens said he realized during his visit that at this point, the U.S. public is mainly concerned with economic issues and takes hardly any interest in foreign affairs. In this context, Arens pointed out that it is clear to him that he and other Israeli spokesmen failed to get the message across to the U.S. public that the loan guarantees for the absorption of aliyah do not constitute "aid" and that giving them would not cost the U.S. taxpayer a cent. [passage omitted]

Arens Displeased With Policy on Gaza Closure

TA2303164192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has expressed dissatisfaction with the decisionmaking process that preceded the Gaza Strip closure on Friday. He said that the closure had created exaggerated expectations and that those who carried it out were violating an earlier understanding with him.

It has been learned that Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq talked to the defense minister while he was in Washington. After the General Staff decided to recommend closing the Gaza Strip, the chief of staff called Arens in the United States and asked him to approve the closure. Arens consented, on the condition that a statement be released announcing that the closure would be a short-term step.

Upon Arens' return from the United States on Friday, a meeting was held with the chief of staff and defense officials. There the defense minister expressed dissatisfaction with the way the closure was imposed on the Strip and with the fact that on that very day the authorities announced the establishment of employment bureaus where Jewish workers could be hired to replace Gaza Strip employees.

The defense minister learned at the meeting that most of the military professionals had opposed the closure and that they had advised the chief of staff of their view. Despite their objection, Baraq supported the closure move, which was subsequently carried out. Immediately after the meeting, Arens ordered the Strip reopened at once, and the closure was lifted yesterday morning.

Confederation Proposal Said To Include Iraq

TA2403095992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 92 pp 1,8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] In his meeting with President Bush at the White House, King Husayn discussed a wide-ranging confederation plan between the Palestinians, Jordan, and Iraq and which, in the future, could include Israel as well, European diplomatic sources in Israel told our correspondent.

They said that there is a dispute in the State Department over the plan: Baker supports it while his main assistant, Edward Djerejian, opposes it. Djerejian maintains that U.S. policy in the Middle East must focus on relations with Syria. Baker claims that al-Asad has so far been disappointing and that Syria must be counterbalanced by strengthening other forces.

The sources said that on the eve of his departure for Washington, Husayn worked out the plan with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and with 'Arafat's envoy, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who came to Amman especially for that purpose. During his White House talks, Husayn was in touch with 'Aziz, who was in New York for the Security Council debate and who linked the wide-ranging confederation plan to a readiness to work toward disarming Iraq of strategic weapons. [sentence as published]

The sources expressed concern that prior experience has shown that Saddam Husayn does not always back agreements reached by 'Aziz abroad. In any event, King Husayn told Bush and Baker that he cannot totally seal

his border with Iraq and that he must assist the Iraqi people in its time of need in order to build a basis for a future confederation. It is preferable for Jordan to differentiate between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi military establishment so that the Iraqis do not come to hate Jordan, Husayn explained.

The sources said that the confederation plan was discussed between Jordan, the PLO, and Iraq for several months and that Tahir al-Masri, Jordan's Palestinian prime minister at the time, dealt with it late last year. Early this year, Jordan initiated the proposal to raise the confederation idea with the Palestinians again, but 'Arafat opposed it. 'Arafat also refused to sign a memorandum of understanding with Jordan on coordinating the talks along the bilateral track and called off a visit to Amman. Only recently did he accept the original Jordanian initiative.

Saudi Arabia and Syria oppose the plan, and Baker's support surprised them, the sources said. Syria has decided to improve its ties with Iraq, and there are reports that it has opened its border with Iraq to a certain extent in order–show displeasure with the change in Baker's position.

On another matter, the sources reported that Syria has shown an interest in the conference on regional water issues and that it has been transferred to Vienna because Syria imposed a veto on Turkey's hosting the event. Syria is still demanding that Palestinians from the diaspora be invited to the subcommittees of the multilateral talks.

Likud Voids Agreement With Moda'i Faction

TA2303205092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The Likud has declared that it will not reserve safe slots in the next Knesset for the Moda'i faction. In a statement submitted to the arbitrator, the Likud also claimed that the Moda'i faction, after announcing the establishment of a new party, is no longer acting in good faith but is trying to undermine the Likud's chances in the next Knesset elections.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has appointed Minister Moshe Nisim to run the Likud's election campaign.

Settlers Allowed Into Army Outpost at Tapu'ah

TA2303200492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The protest tent set up by women settlers from Judaea and Samaria, which had been standing for the past five months outside the military outpost at the Tapu'ah junction, has recently been moved inside the outpost.

Thus, the settlers have realized their wish to man the outpost and to eventually establish a Jewish settlement. This step constitutes a change in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] policy, which had so far prevented civilians from entering military outposts. Military sources this evening said the decision to allow the civilians to enter the post stemmed from security considerations. [passage omitted]

Abu-Jabir Returns From Arab League Meeting

JN2303202592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir described as very positive the Arab League Council meeting on the dispute between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France. The meeting concluded in Cairo last night. He said the meeting stressed the Arab countries' desire to realize Arab solidarity.

Dr. Abu-Jabir was speaking to JNA upon his return to Amman this evening. He represented Jordan at an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, which was held at the request of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Ministers and representatives of all league members participated.

Responding to a question by the agency on Jordan's role in this meeting, the foreign minister said Jordan effectively and positively participated in reaching the resolutions adopted by the league council to tackle the crisis. Jordan proposed the formation of a seven-man ministerial committee to follow up on this issue. The committee will be in continuous session, and seeks to contact the concerned quarters, the UN secretary general, and the Security Council in a bid to reach a compromise.

He said this committee includes representatives of Syria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania. It is headed by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general. He added that membership on this committee was left open to any other Arab country willing to participate in its efforts to tackle this issue.

He pointed out that the Arab group in New York, which represents the Arab League states, is in constant contact with the Security Council permanent members, and is in continuous session. The Arab League Council is in continuous session itself to tackle this issue.

Responding to another question, he hoped that these Arab League Council resolutions—which were characterized by seriousness—would be the start of serious Arab action to coordinate the Arab stance, bolster joint Arab action, and activate the Arab League role as a framework for binding Arab countries.

He stressed Jordan's eagerness to participate in every Arab meeting, because the meeting of Arabs at one table is an Arab gain, since it will develop further gains that contribute to the Jordanian political strategy, which is based on a realization of Arab solidarity.

He hoped that the concerned quarters would respond to the call made by the Arab League—which represents the people of the Arab nation—by searching for a peaceful settlement to the crisis between Libya and the concerned Western countries; that these countries refrain from making any quick decision; wait and give the negotiations and the compromises a chance; and wait for the opinion of the International Court of Justice, which will thoroughly discuss this issue.

King Husayn Congratulates Iranian President

JN2003153792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn sent a cable today, in his name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, congratulating him on the advent of the Nowruz Festival [New Year].

His majesty wished the Iranian president good health, and the Iranian people continued progress and prosperity.

King, Visiting Japanese Discuss Peace Process

JN2103175292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] At the Royal Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Yoshihiro Nakayama [name as heard], adviser at the Middle East Institute affiliated with the Japanese Foreign Ministry. They discussed the peace process and efforts toward a fair settlement of the Middle East crisis. The meeting was attended by the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

King Visits Armed Forces General Command

JN2303194292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited Armed Forces General Command Headquarters today. He was received by Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the chief of staff of the Royal Land Forces; the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force; assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the inspector general.

His majesty met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for some time, during which they discussed issues of interest to the Armed Forces.

His majesty the supreme commander then met with senior Armed Forces officers. His majesty expressed his great pride and full confidence in this Arab army and its great role. He said: Our heads will remain high while performing our duty in the best way for our homeland, our nation, and future generations. In this country, we will continue to enjoy a great reputation and have a distinguished place and great respect among the nations and people of the world.

Prime Minister Briefs Cabinet on King's Tour

JN2203090092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session last night under Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. The prime minister briefed the Council of Ministers on the

results of His Majesty King Husayn's recent tour of Iceland, Canada, the United States, France, and Germany. He explained that his majesty was warmly welcomed in all those countries. His majesty also found a deep and sincere appreciation of Jordan's role, which is distinct for being rational, balanced, and constant. This is a policy Jordan has long pursued, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, during all circumstances and crises in the Middle East.

The prime minister explained that this special appreciation of his majesty's courage, and interest in Jordan's role in attempting to reach a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution in the Middle East, was a point of interest in all the countries his majesty toured.

Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir explained that these countries fully understood Jordan's situation, and the difficulties it is experiencing. This understanding resulted in promises of aid and assistance to overcome this stage.

As for the results of his majesty's visit to Canada, it had a cherished role in supporting Jordan through the implementation of the special program between the two countries, which expired this year, to assist Jordan in the fields of energy, transport, and water. It was agreed that the Canadian minister of foreign cooperation would visit Jordan 13 and 14 April to discuss renewing the agreement; define the fields of continued cooperation between the two friendly countries; and introduce this cooperation into new frameworks, including independent institutions such a universities and nongovernment institutions.

The prime minister outlined the results of the king's visit to the United States. He briefed them on the results of the meetings with President Bush and his secretary of state, during which bilateral relations were reviewed. These relations have returned to what they were before the Gulf crisis. The prime minister also reviewed the exchange of ideas on advancing the peace process in the Middle East, in addition to ideas on a number of regional issues.

Moreover, the prime minister noted the outcome of His Majesty King Husayn's talks in Paris and Bonn, which aimed at resuming and developing cooperation with the two friendly countries in particular, and the European Community in general, in the service of mutual interest, as dictated by the relations between the Middle East and Europe.

The Council of Ministers agreed that the ministers who accompanied His Majesty King Husayn on his recent tour—the planning, finance, and foreign ministers—would hold a meeting to solidify the ideas and proposals the visit produced. They will also submit the programs the government deems necessary and urgent in order to take advantage of the assistance promised by the governments of the countries included in the recent royal tour.

U.S. Journalists Faulted in Saudi Dispute

JN2003103792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 92 p 20

["Just An Opinion" column by Badr 'Abd-al-Haqq: "A Media Wedge in the Heart of Arab Relations!!"]

[Text] As part of the traditional competition among U.S. press and media stars, each star looks for an exciting news story—albeit fabricated and baseless—to increase his popularity and influence.

In the context of this hot, competitive atmosphere, it is possible to understand an attempt by two U.S. journalists to drive a wedge between Jordan and Saudi Arabia when they posed questions to His Majesty King Husayn on what the West likes to term the rise of fundamentalism. Among the most important questions in this regard has been the one concerning fundamentalism in the Arab world (including Jordan and Saudi Arabia). The U.S. journalist who conducted the interview claimed that he heard from a "very authoritative" source that Saudi Arabia is trying to protect itself from the tide of fundamentalism by financing some operations by fundamentalists in Jordan ... end of story.

What is important here is the story of the "very authoritative" source to which the U.S. journalist referred. What is truly authoritative and confirmed should come out in the open, especially since the U.S. press have for years perfected the art of exploiting other states, and of accusing them of placing the mass media in the service of ruling regimes. This takes us back to the black days of the Gulf war, when the United States (the master of international legitimacy) revealed two different standards: A standard for use by the United States and the Western coalition, and another for dealing with the Third World. The question that continues to be raised is: Why does the United States refuse to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories at a time when it welcomes Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait?

His Majesty King Husayn refused to discuss this sensitive and extremely delicate topic, out of his majesty's concern not to harm the historical and fraternal relations between Amman and Riyadh, and with other Arab parties. That attempt was misunderstood by the Saudi media, in view of the U.S. announcer's insistence on saying that Saudi Arabia finances operations by fundamentalists in Jordan.

Therefore, the U.S. media have tried to distort the image of both Jordan and Saudi Arabia in the Western mind. Perhaps the Western media have sought to find means to prevent Arab relations in general, and Jordanian-Saudi relations in particular, from reaching an end to the dispute, or perhaps the rupture, although the political climate after the Gulf war has given clear indications about the possibility of healing the rift that the Gulf war has caused in inter-Arab relations.

Editorial Urges Israel To 'Abandon Terrorism'

JN2003093192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Mar 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel and Terrorism"]

[Text] Only a few hours after the destruction of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, the Israeli foreign minister began to level accusations and threats, and to describe whoever he wanted as a terrorist. This time, he described Syria and Iran as terrorists.

Although we continue to condemn all forms of terrorism, there is a fact we cannot ignore; namely, that Israel is the one that established terrorism in the region, practiced it, continues to practice it, and causes terrorism to be carried out by the oppressed who are subject to its crimes. Moreover, it is worth recalling that Israeli terrorism in the region is continuous. It is manifested in Israel's refusal to comply with international legitimacy, persistence in usurping and denying the Palestinian people's rights, and procrastination in setting the peace process in motion and dealing with it in a serious manner. It is evident that such acts are in essence terrorism, and are tantamount to sparking the fire of terrorism wherever it can be kindled. If Israel were really sincere in condemning terrorism, then it should begin by abandoning all forms of terrorism itself, and complying with international legitimacy. Then the many terrorist acts others carry out against it would cease, and genuine opportunities to anchor stability, security, and safety in the region and in other parts of the world would arise.

Condemning terrorism is not sufficient to eliminate it. The causes of terrorism, among which are aggression and usurpation of other people's rights, must be eradicated. If the international community forces Israel to comply with international legitimacy, then that in itself will extinguish a dangerous hotbed of terrorism, the Israeli hotbed. Then it would be possible to build genuine peace in the region.

The circle of terrorism stirred by Israel is responsible for sparking other terrorism. Israel is the least entitled to accuse others of terrorism. It must first abandon terrorism in order to be safe from it.

Al-Murr: Government 'Unable' To Ensure Security

NC2003181192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] In an interview with AL-MASIRAH magazine, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said that the Lebanese Government is unable to assume responsibility for security throughout Lebanese territory, as stipulated in the al-Ta'if Accord.

The Syrians will have to help us, he said, asking: If they withdraw, who is going to maintain security? He said that there is no political security in the nation, and emphasized the inability of the Lebanese Army, men, and equipment to deploy and maintain security throughout Lebanese territory. Al-Murr explained that the al-Ta'if Accord gave the Lebanese state two years before it had to maintain security throughout its territory. He said that the state does not have the resources to do so, and that the final decision will be made by the cabinet.

Al-Murr confirmed that parliamentary elections will take place, but he did not rule out the possibility that the south will be excluded. Just because it would be difficult to hold elections in the south, he asked, does that mean that we should not hold any elections whatsoever?

Statement Views Syrian Redeployment

NC2103175992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] In a statement published today, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said that the redeployment of the Syrian Army in Lebanon cannot be concluded by September, because the Lebanese Army is incapable of ensuring security throughout Lebanon.

Al-Murr attributed the Lebanese Army's failure to ensure this security to the fact that it is badly equipped and to the lack of foreign assistance.

He asked: Why should the Americans and the West in general demand the withdrawal of the Syrian Army at a time when they refrain from helping the Lebanese Army?

Nabih Birri Opposes Early Syrian Withdrawal

NC2203110092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Minister Nabih Birri said he will oppose Syria if it decides to withdraw from Lebanon before the rehabilitation [ta'hil] of the Lebanese Army and security forces is finalized.

Security Personnel, Vendors Clash in Beirut

NC2303114692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Five persons were killed and an unspecified number wounded today in a clash between Internal Security Forces and the owners of vegetable handcarts—mostly Syrians—on the road between the Kuwaiti Embassy and the sports city, REUTER said.

The agency earlier reported that the clash led to the killing of two Syrian vendors. Citing eyewitnesses, REUTER said a jeep belonging to the Internal Security Forces was destroyed. In a later report, it said that a Syrian national had died of wounds suffered.

The Internal Security Forces were trying to move the vegetable handcarts from the neighborhood to a nearby site to ease a traffic jam. The matter developed into a shoot-out in which four persons were killed on the scene and a number of others were wounded.

Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib and Major General Muhammad Qubrusli, chief of the Internal Security Forces, held contacts with a number of Syrian officials and the Syrian Forces Command to contain the incident.

Interior Minister Comments

NC2303155692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Efforts have succeeded to restore normal life to the sports complex, following this morning's incident between vegetable vendors and the Internal Security Forces. The incident developed into a shoot-out, during which two Syrians were killed and five others were wounded, including a Syrian major.

Judicial sources have denied that any Internal Security Forces personnel were killed or wounded and said that the Lebanese Army did not take part in the incident.

Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib instructed the judicial and security authorities to widen the scope of their investigation in trying to get to the bottom of the incident. He said: It has become clear to us through preliminary evidence and the testimony of military personnel at the scene that what happened was more than just a normal, transient incident. The minister said that the incident could have been planned and could have other dimensions, linking it to the chain of major plots against the country, as he put it.

Al-Murr on Economy, Damascus Talks, Shoot-Out

NC2303154092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Statement by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, followed by remarks in response to questions from unidentified correspondents, after a meeting of the Ministerial Economic Emergency Committee in Beirut on 23 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Murr] The ministerial emergency committee held a meeting to discuss economic developments. It heard reports by the pertinent ministers on the measures which have been put into effect to control prices. It became apparent that the administrative and

judicial measures have contributed to a decrease in the number of violations, particularly with regard to the prices of bread, medicine, and fuel. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Can you brief us on the nature of the talks taking place in Damascus?

[Al-Murr] I have not been to Damascus. I do not know what is happening. I have not been to Damascus for about a week—since last Saturday. I am like any other citizen; what I know is what I read in the press and hear on the radio.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] turn to the south. How is the situation in the south?

[Al-Murr] The Israeli enemy is preparing for something in the south. We do not know for what purpose. They say that they want to respond to what happened in Argentina. The Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Government are taking all possible measures vis-a-vis any action that might take place in the south. In other words, we are preparing for anything.

[Correspondent] Is there coordination with the UN emergency forces?

[Al-Murr] The UN emergency forces do not normally deal directly with such situations. In the areas where our forces, the Lebanese Army forces, are deployed, the Army command has given the necessary military instructions to take precautionary and protective measures, because we do not know what will happen.

[Correspondent] In your capacity as defense minister, what information do you have about the security incident that took place in the sports complex area?

[Al-Murr] I think that the case falls within the interior minister's jurisdiction, and he is supposed to have issued an official statement on this incident.

[Correspondent] It has been learned that the Army intervened.

[Al-Murr] No. The Army was not involved. Army forces did not intervene and were not involved in the incident. The incident involved the Internal Security Forces, and the interior minister adopted measures. I think that he also issued statement on the measures he took. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Skips Arab League Meeting on Libya

NC2103184292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that use of force against Libya would be unjustitifed, adding that diplomatic efforts and investigations must continue. In a statement to AFP, Buwayz said there is not enough evidence to stop investigations by the judiciary.

Minister Buwayz said he will not take part in the meetings of the Arab League foreign ministers, which will begin in Cairo tomorrow, because they are technical in nature. He added that Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the Arab League, will represent him in the meeting, which will discuss the Libyan crisis.

Islamic Jihad Reiterates Claim of Embassy Blast

NC2303203692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization confirmed in Beirut today that it was responsible for blowing up the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. In a statement, the organization described the claim that it was not responsible for the explosion, which came following its original claim of responsibility, as false. Accompanying the Arabic type-written statement was a video showing the embassy building before the suicide operation carried out by the Islamic Jihad.

Israeli Buildup Reported; Army on 'Alert'

NC2103121092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] While Israel is stepping up its verbal threats against Lebanon, an Israeli military buildup has been reported in the security strip in the past few hours. According to our correspondent in the eastern sector, many Israeli vehicles, including Merkava tanks, troop carriers, and trucks loaded with ammunition, have taken up positions in al-Mari and al-Majidiyah.

Intense military moves were also reported on the al-Majidiyah-al-'Urqub road. The occupation forces also sent foot patrols to comb the outskirts of Kafr Hamam and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar.

According to arrivals from the occupied strip, occupation and Lahd officers have been holding vital meetings in the Marj 'Uyun barracks.

Lahd radio has called on the Lebanese authorities to end what it described as the return of terrorists to Beirut, claiming that the terrorists are using the Lebanese capital as a base for their worldwide operations under official military cover. The radio said that the Lebanese authorities should end the presence of what it called extremists, saying that they should be punished and banished from Lebanon so that it might live in peace.

Meanwhile our correspondents in the central and western sectors say that the Lebanese Army has brought in more personnel and vehicles in the past few hours to reinforce its positions in the areas next to the border strip. According to security sources in the south, Army units are on the alert for any eventuality.

Report of Buildup Refuted

NC2203170992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Tyre has cited security sources in the south as having denied the presence of Israeli troop concentrations in the border strip area. The sources said that Israel does not need a long time to bring its forces to the region if it wants to carry out a military operation.

The same sources added that Islamic gunmen have been placed on a maximum state of alert.

Palestinian sources have said that a state of all-out alert has been declared in the camps as a precaution against any possible Israeli air strikes.

Lubrani Said To Tour Posts

NC2203072992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The radio station of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] militia has warned the residents of the south they will be attacked. It said the Lebanese Government must end the presence of those the radio called extremists on Lebanese territory, cut them down, and expel them from Lebanese territory.

THE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY said the one called the coordinator of Israeli affairs in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, secretly and swiftly toured Israeli and SLA positions in the occupied strip. It added that Lubrani will meet this morning with a number of Israeli officers and Lahd militia in the Marj 'Uyun barracks, which today have been the scene of extensive military meetings and contacts.

Army Fires on Israeli Planes

NC2403101692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Israeli military aircraft continued to fly over southern Lebanon throughout the morning, staging mock raids over several areas.

Lebanese Army anti-aircraft guns opened fire on the intruding Israeli planes, which flew over the Palestinian camps, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and al-Zahrani.

Fadlallah Sees 'Plot To Deprive Islam' of Power

NC1903085792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the United States and Europe are worried about Islam's growing power. He noted that the United States does not mind if Russia or Ukraine retain their nuclear weapons, but the big problem for the United States is if Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and other Islamic states keep such weapons.

At a fast-breaking banquet held by the Islamic Cooperation Society in the Great Prophet Mosque, attended by religious scholars and Homayun 'Alizadah, Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Beirut, Fadlallah said: We oppose the tyrant of Iraq, but Iraq's weapons are not the tyrant's property, they belong to the Iraqi people.

Fadlallah asked about the reasons for the recent hue and cry over the two Korean ships carrying weapons to Syria and Iran, and why the U.S. secretary of state is touring the world to pressure China not to sell advanced weapons to Syria.

Fadlallah said there is a plot to deprive Islam of any power, launched after the arrogant forces saw the achievements of the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. This revolution has invigorated the Muslims.

He said that regimes subservient to global arrogance give freedom to all groups except the Islamic forces. These regimes have filled their prisons with Islamic activists.

Fadlallah stated that the current situation is difficult. If we cannot go forward in the arena controlled by the arrogant forces, we must advance in that over which the arrogant forces have no control; namely, our thoughts, will, and feeling.

Views Lubrani Comment on Resolution

NC2003191992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah commented on Uri Lubrani's statement that no Israeli Government will accept Resolution 425. Fadlallah asked: What would the U.S. response be if an Arab ruler rejected an international resolution? In his Friday sermon, Fadlallah accused the United States of giving full support and power to Israel and of tracking down every source of Arab and Islamic power.

Warns of 'Zionist' Attack

NC2103092992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has warned that the Zionist enemy might use an operation by Palestinian mujahid Ra'id al-Rifi and the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina as excuses to attack Lebanon. His eminence praised those who stand up to Zionist arrogance and who defend the nation's glory.

U.S., Israeli 'Sources' Cited on Scud Shipment

JN2203170092 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 23 Mar 92 p 3

[Excerpt] According to U.S. sources, Syria has taken delivery of a consignment of Scud missiles transported by North Korean vessels to the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas, and from there aboard Iranian aircraft to Syria.

U.S. intelligence has pinpointed two assembly sites near Hamah and Aleppo, the sources add.

The sources explain this cooperation in the context of coordination between Damascus and Tehran during the Iraq-Iran war. In exchange for facilities extended by Iran, the Syrian Government acquiesces to Tehran's logistical, financial, and military support for the Hizballah in Lebanon.

The idea behind the Korean ships docking at Bandar-e 'Abbas was to keep them outside the range of Israeli aircraft, in the event Israel decided to take out the missiles as they transited the Suez Canal.

Israeli circles, however, question the accuracy of the U.S. version, and maintain that the North Korean ships unloaded "other things" at Bandar-e 'Abbas, and add that this remains something of a mystery. Very few people know for sure what the cargo was, and talk about two missile assembly plants in Syria, according to Israeli circles, might be premature. [passage omitted]

World Powers Urged To 'Prove Their Sincerity'

JN2303163892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1233 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In view of the delicate circumstances through which our region and the world around us are passing, we find it helpful to remember that the confusion, tension, and aggravation of regional conflicts will not be resolved unless international law is heeded, and all people and nations are treated equally under the principles of international legitimacy. This will not be realized unless the influential international powers prove their sincerity in dealing with the heated issues that may explode in more than one place in our world.

The troubled period through which the world around us is passing has produced much talk and several announcements about a new world order, where justice and peace prevail, and where the dangers of war retreat. This talk and these announcements, however, have not been beneficial to humanity after the cold war, in which people paid a dear price in terms of capabilities, victims, and ambitions.

We have always said that, for us, the Arab-Israeli conflict can be a real test of the seriousness of the talk about the dawn of that new world order. This is because the whole world knows that solving this conflict is based on very clear international resolutions, and that international legitimacy's ruling on this conflict was made several years ago. The only thing left for those enthusiastic about the birth of the new world order is to implement this ruling with the various means necessary, employing the same standards that we remember being used on other countries and other people.

It is worth noting now, a few months after the Madrid Conference, and after all the Israeli refusals of United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy—with the aim of wiping out the peace negotiations—that some powers sponsoring the peace conference, which are calling for a just and comprehensive solution, ignore the condition that the peace process has reached by occupying themselves and the world with a subject that is related to sisterly Libya; a subject that should be resolved by peaceful means, international justice, and frank negotiations, not by threats of a siege or the use of force.

We believe that such a blackout and neglect of a right that is related to Arab destiny—their present and future—focuses on an accusation that harms the Arabs, undermines their reputation, endangers one of their states, and represents political behavior that is strange and which can only described as enmity for the Arabs. It ignores their interests, and their constructive role in laying down the principles of the new world order. Has enmity for the Arabs become the first headline in the book of the new world order?

India

'First' Official Talks With Israel Held 23 Mar

BK2303165492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] India and Israel today held the first official-level talks in New Delhi since the upgradation [as heard] of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Both sides viewed the talks as a good beginning in the bilateral relationship and felt that there is a potential for greater cooperation.

Solanki Briefs House on U.S. Ties, Nuclear Issue

BK2303092292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The center has conveyed to Washington its serious concern over some negative references on India in the Pentagon paper. This was disclosed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, in the Rajya Sabha today. He said the U.S. State Department has informed the government that the Pentagon paper does not reflect Washington's position on various issues dealt with as these are subject to further review.

Mr. Solanki said the Government has also conveyed its displeasure on the reported advocacy by Pentagon for continued U.S. military relations with Pakistan. The external affairs minister has reiterated that there is no change in India's position with regard to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Reacting to the misleading reports in the press that India would sign the NPT, Mr. Solanki reaffirmed that India will not sign the treaty as it is discriminatory. He said nuclear proliferation has taken a global dimension and, as such, the issue requires global approach. The external affairs minister said that India is prepared to talk to the United States on nuclear nonproliferation.

When asked about the five-power conference proposal put forward by the United States to discuss security issues in South Asia, Mr. Solanki said the prime minister has detailed India's position to President Bush that talks cannot be held in vacuum on the matter.

Replying to a supplementary, Mr. Solanki said India has defense cooperation with several friendly countries, including the United States. Indo-U.S. defense cooperation is focused on the exchange of professional information, high-level visits, and training. Mr. Solanki said that in this context, joint training exercises will be undertaken by the Indian and U.S. navies. He also stated that no agreement has been signed in this regard. Mr. Solanki informed the members that India remains committed to the Indian Ocean being an area without conflicts.

'Shankul' Naval Submarine Launched 21 Mar

BK2203130592 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The Indian naval submarine, Shankul, built by the Mazagaon Docks was launched in Bombay today. It was formally launched by Mrs. Vimla Sharma, wife of the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. Shankul is the second last [as heard] of the submarine-to-submarine killer series. Our correspondent H.B. Murlidhar has filed more details:

[Begin recording] [Murlidhar] Nearly 80 years ago, a vague submersible mechanical tubelike thing was made to stun the naval warfare experts. Today after years of trial and error, a submarine is considered to be one of the most formidable weapons. The nuclear submarines can fire as many as 24 nuclear missiles capable of reaching targets as far away as 5,000 miles. Through the launching of Shankul, India's submarine capability has gone another step ahead. This state-of-the-art submarine is diesel-electric driven. Shankul is comparable to the best in the world. One thousand five hundred tons heavy and 65 meters long Shankul can carry nearly 40 persons on board. Speaking on the occasion, the vice president commended the role of navy and Mazagaon Docks Limited.

[Vice President Sharma] I take this opportunity to express my felicitation and congratulations to all who have been connected with the building of INS Shankul. [end recording]

Rao on Economic Reforms, Nuclear Conference

BK2203111892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that the country's financial position is much better now. Addressing a press conference after attending the annual convocation of Vishwa Bharati at Shanti Niketan today, the prime minister said economic reforms have to be carried on and we will have to tighten our belt so that the situation does not go out of control.

[Begin Rao recording] Well, when I say better, it only means relatively. We are still ... [changes thought] a long way to go and we will have to continue to tighten our belt. [end recording]

Replying to a question, as to whether the country is preparing for another installment of IMF loan, the prime minister said that negotiations for extended funding facilities are on and a final picture is yet to emerge.

Referring to the controversial interview given by General S.F. Rodrigues, the prime minister said that the center does not want to use the army in maintaining law and order. But, if the situation so warrants, the army will be called out.

Mr. Narasimha Rao reiterated that India will not attend the proposed five-nation conference on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the center will render all possible assistance to the Tamil Nadu government to keep LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activities under constant watch. [passage omitted]

Rao Declines Comment on Nuclear Meeting

BK2103161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The prime minister has said a close watch is being maintained on the activities of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the chief minister of Tamil Nadu is in constant touch with the Center. Addressing a news conference at Vishwa Bharati University at Shanti Niketan in West Bengal this afternoon, he said the militant group is indulging in activities detrimental to peace and unity of the country.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said the financial situation is a lot better now, but we will have to continue to tighten our belt and be very careful in managing our economy. The prime minister pointed out that the country cannot allow any wasteful expenditure. He admitted that inflation is still very high, but said the situation is slowly coming under control.

Mr. Rao parried questions by newsmen as to whether India will take part in the five-nation conference on nuclear free South Asia as suggested by the United States and whether New Delhi is under pressure to compromise on Super 301 trade negotiations. He said it will not be possible for him to comment as parliament is in session.

In reply to a question whether India will go in for another installment of loans from the IMF, the prime minister said negotiations are continuing for extended funding facility. He said the non-resident Indians are less shy now to invest in the country as they were about four months ago. He hoped that the situation will greatly improve in another three to four months time.

Militants Gun Down 13 People in Punjab

BK2203082492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] In Punjab, militants again struck in a big way, killing 13 people and injuring another six in Ahmedgarh town of Sangrur District last evening. According to an official spokesman, four militants came on two scooters to the crowded Gandhi Chowk of the town at about 1930 and opened indiscriminate fire. Among the killed are two women and 11 men, and the injured include one child. Senior civil and police officials immediately rushed to the spot along with reinforcements and have since launched an extensive search for the culprits. This is the second major strike by militants in Sangrur district within 12 days. On the evening of the 10th of this month, militants shot dead 15 senior engineers and executives of a private factory under construction near village Harkishanpura.

Elsewhere in Punjab, 10 militants have been killed in separate encounters with the security forces. According to an official spokesman, two militants each were killed in Govindgarh area of Patiala District and Amritsar Sadar area in separate encounters. In Ferozepore District, three under-trial militants were killed when some militants ambushed a police party escorting them.

Burma Urged To Halt 'Atrocities' on Refugees

BK2403055692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text]The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, has said that New Delhi has urged the Myanmar [Burma] authorities to stop atrocities on the innocent villagers by the army. Talking to newsmen in Kohima, he said about 1,500 Myanmar villagers have taken refuge in Nagaland. They will be allowed to remain in the state till the situation in Myanmar becomes conducive for their return. Mr. Faleiro also expressed the government's deep concern at the increased influx of refugees from Bangladesh into Assam and West Bengal.

SRV Foreign Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit

BK2203084092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The foreign minister of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, has arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India. Welcoming Mr. Nguyen at the airport, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said that India and Vietnam enjoyed a very special friendship sustained by decades of bilateral understanding and close cooperation. Mr. Faleiro stressed the need in particular for the two countries to enrich their bilateral cultural exchanges through films, cultural troupes, and scholars. Mr. Nguyen will participate in the Indo-Vietnamese Joint Commission meeting to be cochaired by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki. He will also call on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the vice president, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao.

Iran

Minister Urges 'Massive' Election Turnout

LD2103233392 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—With the withdrawal of nine more candidates Saturday, the number of the nominees who have decided not to run in the fourth term of the Majles (Parliament) elections over the past 12 days reached 60, the electoral headquarters reported Saturday.

The candidates have personally announced their decision to withdraw from the April 10 parliamentary election at their constituencies of Shiraz, Esfahan, Bandar-e Anzali, Firuzabad, Shabestar and Khomeyn Shahr, the report said.

Meanwhile, the number of candidates who have registered at 196 constituencies across the country stands at 3,209 (including those who have withdrawn), nearly 12 times the number that will actually be elected to the 270 seat Majles.

The number of candidates for the 4th term of the Majles election is 50 percent more than those in the 3rd term held four years go.

Investigation into the qualification of the candidates would be finished by Sunday, according to Lotfollah Saghrawani, the official in charge of the electoral headquarters here today.

The qualification of 25 candidates from religious minorities have been investigated, he said, adding that all candidates will be informed of whether their qualification have been approved or not by Monday.

Those whose qualification has been disapproved would be given four days to hand in their written protest.

In related news Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri on Saturday called for massive turnout of the Iranian people in the 10th April election.

In a visit to the electoral headquarters, the minister told IRNA "preparations have been made to prevent personal tastes from affecting the election process and to ensure that the criteria for election (to the Majles) is what the people wish."

He said to participate in the elections would in fact mean acting upon the will of the late Imam Khomeyni and upon advice of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatolah 'Ali Khamene'i.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1512 GMT on 21 March adds: "Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri on Saturday expressed satisfaction with the progress of work being made in preparation for the April 10 parliamentary elections.

["Thanks to God, we have had no difficulties in affairs relevant to registering or investigating the qualification of the candidates," the minister told reporters assembled at the electoral headquarters here.

He said the candidates whose qualifications have been approved can start their election campaign as of Thursday, April 2 when their names are to be formally made known.

[Qualified candidates are banned from launching their election campaigns sooner than Wednesday, April 1 so that they may have equal time for publicities, he said."]

Mediation in Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Discussed

Russia Backs Tehran Role

LD2103140992 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Russia supports Iran's mediation efforts to settle the Karabakh dispute between the two neighboring republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The backing came on Thursday from a Russian Foreign Ministry delegation, in a meeting with Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mr. Va'ezi, currently in the region to follow up the agreements reached during the tripartite Tehran meeting earlier this week.

In continuation of Iran's mediation efforts between the two belligerent republics, a week-long cease-fire went into effect on Friday [20 March] in Karabakh, following a two-day meeting attended by officials of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran.

According to IRNA, a ranking Russian political delegation will visit Iran in the near future to discuss the issue of Karabakh with Iranian officials.

Mr. Va'ezi voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the belligerent countries and all those who can play an effective role in this connection.

'Ideal Candidate' for Mediation

NC2203141992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Meddling Always Unwelcome"]

[Text] The U.S. is not known for having any tact. Its policy always tends to be cut-and-thrust, jumping into situations head-first without foresight and usually ends up offering bribes or making threats. Yet Turkey has called upon the U.S. to intervene in Nagorno-Karabakh.

What, you may ask, does Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin think he is doing in urging such a move? Was it just a simple Freudian slip in wanting to seek the assistance of the UN, often confused with the U.S. because of its dominant role in the world body? Or was the minister simply paying respect to the acceptance of Washington's definition of a new international order and the U.S. desire to act as the world's self-proclaimed policeman in it.

It may be further queried on exactly what the Americans are expected to do. For U.S. to call in the marines? To issue an ultimatum before sending out B-52 bombers? Lure the Security Council into imposing sanctions to starve out the aggressors and aggressed alike?

Maybe Cetin's telephone call to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was to persuade him to press for an international peace conference that could spend months in procedural wranglings and arguments over where to meet? Or is it a case for offering aid tied to allowing the

U.S. to build a military base in the region and to handing over the protagonist countries business to Zionist financiers? Perhaps human rights violations could be invented or allegations made about developing nuclear weapons to smear one of the sides as an outcast?

Most Americans do not even know where Armenia and Azerbaijan are, let alone have any idea what the dispute is about and regardless of whatever course of action the U.S. may decide upon, it can only be bad news for the region. It would not only be partial but would be manipulated for Washington's own ends to gain what it can from the conflict of others. Furthermore it could lead to the U.S. obtaining a foothold for the first time to encroach upon other former Soviet Republics.

With fighting reported continuing in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is certainly a situation that needs firm, decisive action, carried out quickly and as has been said before. Iran, which neighbors both countries and has both Armenian and Azeri communities living in its territory, is an ideal candidate to act as a sympathetic and experienced mediator. Such a role could be carried out by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati or the appointment of a specialist envoy, who could devote constant attention to resolve the deep-rooted conflict.

Efforts of 'Western Powers' Discounted

NC2203155692 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Too Many Cooks Seeking Their Own Ends in Nagorno-Karabakh"]

[Text] While Western powers have been fanatically seeking a way to intervene in the Armenian-Azerbaijan dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, Iran has been busily holding mediation talks between the two warring sides to stop the bloodshed. Delegations from the two former Soviet republics held a second round of negotiations in Tehran yesterday amid cautious optimism being expressed over Iran's four-point peace plan.

Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, France and Britain have all previously tried to stop the fighting without achieving any success and Western nations have now turned to efforts from the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] as well as the United Nations in a bid to overtake Tehran's initiative. The CSCE is now proposing to hold a conference on the dispute but have been arguing whether it should be held in Prague or Paris, while the UN is sending its special envoy to Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance on an unspecified visit to the region.

The disparate moves have caused German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Czech counterpart, Jiri Dienstbier, whose country currently holds the CSCE presidency, to express concern and call for a common structure and better coordination with the UN. Also in on the act, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is looking for a role to play and has been pursuing its own efforts.

All three agencies are under heavy U.S. influence and reports suggest that Secretary of State James Baker is seeking to exert American policy on this issue and is due to hold talks with Dienstbier in Washington this Friday. The White House is thought to be particularly wanting to ensure that the Caucasian republics as well as the newly independent Muslim states in Central Asia come under its domain.

Meanwhile chairing the Tehran talks, the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati voiced confidence of a ceasefire in the near future, adding that the groundwork for a "just end to the dispute is being prepared." Should an accord be agreed, Deputy Minister Mahmud Va'ezi is expected to travel to the region to consolidate efforts on the ceasefire.

What is needed most is an immediate end to the killing, that so far has cost hundreds of lives. But a truce will only be the beginning as painfully negotiations on finding a lasting political solution will be required to underwrite a settlement. Yet with so many different countries and organizations, mostly trying to take advantage of the conflict to their own ends, the danger is that "too many cooks can spoil the broth," which would be a tragedy not only for Armenia and Azerbaijan but for the region as a whole.

Attempt at 'Sabotage' Seen

NC2003150792 Tehran ABRAR (International Supplement) in English 5 Mar 92 p 16

[Commentary: "Azerbaijan: Scene of U.S.-Turkish Struggle Against Iran"]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel announced his country will not allow Azerbaijan rights on the issue of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh to be trampled. Meanwhile, Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador to the United Nations, called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to participate in the peace mediation led by the Russian foreign minister.

The conflict between the Azeris and Armenians which erupted four years ago has so far led to the death of hundreds and injuries of thousands of others. The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh has continued despite repeated mediation attempts by many countries, and is threatening the region with ethnic tensions.

The Iranian mediation efforts in the affair and the trip of an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the region which led to a semi-successful 72-hour ceasefire and agreement to exchange bodies of dead with the help of the Red Crescent and the Foreign Ministry was welcomed by the people of the two republics and other neighboring and regional countries which are well-acquainted with the threats of war.

But it seems that the initial successful mediation of the Islamic Republic in the dispute have not been to the liking of the United States, certain Western countries as well as Turkey, which claims to be the policeman of the region. These countries do not want to see Iranian mediation to resolve the dispute between the two neighbors, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and directly or indirectly are trying to sabotage Iranian efforts. For instance Turkish statesmen claim to want to mediate in the crisis while they declare that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan. This means partial support for one of the parties in the conflict.

At the same time Turkey is trying to damage Iranian prestige by warning Iran and Syria not to support the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), while our government officials have repeatedly denied such charges.

What can be clearly seen here is open confrontation of the Turks and Americans against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However Iran cannot remain indifferent to events going on near its borders because it shares hundreds of kilometers of common frontiers with Azerbaijan and Armenia. Therefore efforts to remove Tehran from any effort to mediate in the conflict which is contrary even to the desires of the Azeri and Armenian governments, can only mean a plot by the West and Turkey against the peoples of these republics and the Islamic Republic. The Iranian officials should note this clearly in our relations with the West and Turkey.

UN Official Rejects Criticism on Refugees

LD2103110592 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—Head of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here Omar Bakit [name as received] has protested to critical remarks made by an Interior Ministry official against UNHCR.

The remarks were made earlier this month by the deputy director of the Aliens and Immigrants Department of the Interior Ministry Abdolreza Haji-Arab.

Haji-Arab had said in an interview carried by IRNA that UNHCR had budgeted 4.5 dollars for each Afghan refugee in Pakistan against only 1.00 dollar for each Afghan refugee in Iran.

The Iranian official had also said that the UNHCR representative office in Tehran had failed to do much to solve the problems and the plight of the Afghan refugees.

In his letter, Bakit stressed that Haji-Arab's remarks were in sharp contradiction with the statements made by senior Iranian officials including Minister of the Interior 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi regarding the efficiency of UNHCR's response to the needs of refugees in the Islamic Republic.

In fact UNHCR in the Islamic Republic of Iran has gone beyond its mandate in trying to address the negative impact refugees have placed on environment and infrastructure by setting up service facilities that is benefiting both nationals and refugees and acting as a catalyst in promoting additional bilateral and multilateral aid," the letter read.

Examples of this, it added, were [word indistinct] project in South Khorasan Province for rehabilitation of rangeland and the Italian Government project for establishment of hospitals in Bakhtaran and Khuzestan.

Therefore, it noted, it was unfair to attribute shortcomings in assisting refugees in Iran to an office which had maintained an active presence and had diligently worked to improve relationships and open a new era for mutual understanding and a more solid and meaningful cooperation.

Sri Lanka

Anti-LTTE Military Operations Continue

185 LTTE Fighters Killed

BK2103123492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Security forces have sent the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] reeling [word indistinct] the (Kagalaru) Sea Tiger base at Valvettiturai on the northern coast of Jaffna and killing 30 terrorists in overrunning another major LTTE base in Operation Higher Power at Weli Oya in the Mullaitivu district. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that (Kagalaru), home base of the Sea Tigers, has been pounded by heavy artillery shelling from the forward-most positions of the Palali military base. Extensive damage has been caused to the Sea Tigers fleet and 10 terrorists were reported killed in their boats. At Weli Oya, 13 more terrorists were killed as infantry troops of Operation Higher Power backed by heavy armor, artillery, and strong air support overran a major (Idikkipadai) base, overcoming stiff enemy resistance strengthened by about 500 reinforcements. A total of 185 terrorists have been killed and two major and five LTTE satellite bases destroyed in the Manal Aru-Weli Oya complex. The latest reports received by LANKAPUVATH from Weli Oya state that troops were continuing to push forward relentlessly.

Curfew on Trincomalee District

BK2203143492 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1352 GMT 22 Mar 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 22 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Joint Operations Command announced that a curfew had been imposed in the assistant government agent's division of Mutur in the eastern Trincomalee district with effect from 1800 hours (local time), Sunday [22 March]. It will be lifted at 0800 hours (local time)

Monday and re-imposed from 1700 hours (local time) and will be in force until further notice.

Strikes on Tamil Bases Increase

BK2303115492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Air and artillery strikes targeted on more Tamil Tiger terrorist bases and bunkers have been accelerated in the thick jungles of a district in the northern province as Operation Higher Power code-named Operation Six-a-shots intensified its search and destroy strategy during the 48 hours ending at dawn today. Advancing troops discovered two fully equipped bases which had been abandoned by the retreating terrorists following last week's massive roundup in jungle territory in which 185 Tigers were killed in combat at Weli Oya in the Eastern Province. Tamil Tiger cadres who lost their lives were identified as youth from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaittivu, and Kilinochchi in the Northern Province and from the districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee in the Eastern Province.

Sri Lanka's official news agency LANKAPUVATH reported that the clandestine radio operated by the Tamil terrorists from a jungle hideout which troops are still trying to locate had made frantic announcements asking for donors of blood for 50 seriously wounded cadres who are occupying an entire ward at the biggest hospital in the north. Army intelligence experts who had monitored the clandestine radio reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leaders on their own admission revealed that apart from the 185 Tigers already killed, another 260 wounded were being treated in the distant northern and eastern jungles. As Operation Six-a-shots continues its forward thrust, the Joint Operations Command has declared a curfew a the eastern district of Trincomalee effective 1700 to 0800.

Finance Minister Wins No-Confidence Motion

BK2103115692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The motion of no-confidence moved by the opposition against the finance minister based on a statement made by the prime minister and finance minister in Parliament on the 19th of last month on the commercialization of the two state banks was defeated in Parliament yesterday by a majority of 70 votes. One hundred and nineteen MPs voted against the motion, while 49 MP's voted in favor of the motion. Four Sri Lankan Muslim Congress MP's and two TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] MP's voted with the government. The MP's of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], USA [United Socialist Alliance], and TULF MP K. Navratna voted in favor of the motion.

Winding up the debate on behalf of the opposition, S.L. Gunasekera, MP, questioned as to what steps the government has taken against those who do not repay loans taken from state banks. The Minister of Industries, Science and Technology Ranil Wickremasinghe said that the prime minister has revealed the true positions of the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank. He noted the bank unions have failed to disclose the correct picture to the public. Minister Wickremasinghe said that the government's objective is to improve the state banks by solving the problems faced by the banks. He stressed the need to reorganize these banks to solve the present problems faced by banks.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Harold Herath noted that the government has clearly indicated that the state banks will not be privatized. Structural adjustments will be made to make these banks more competitive with other banks. The Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Joseph Michael Perera told Parliament that the people have realized that the two state banks could provide a better service to their customers by reorganizing these institutions. J. (Ivianathan), MP, said that he would propose to the government to solve the problems of the Tamils. Several MP's also expressed their views. Parliament will meet again on the 21st of April.

Agricultural Produce Exports Increasing

BK2103123692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Sri Lanka has earned more than 500 million rupees from the export of agricultural produce last year. The country's fruits and vegetables are fetching a better foreign market. The Minister of Trade and Commerce A.R. Mansoor says that the growing of fruits and vegetables should be encouraged at village level to earn the much needed foreign exchange income by exporting them. The minister was speaking at a seminar on international marketing and exports of fruits and vegetables in Colombo recently. The Minister for Exports Development Senaraja Samaranayake revealed that the income from exports of fruits and vegetables will exceed 1,000 million rupees by the year 1995. The State Minister for Trade and Commerce Rohan Abeygunasekera, Secretary to the Export Development Minister K. Fernandes, and the Chairman of the Export Development Board K. Gunaratane also graced the occasion.